FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 3 *4 January 1979*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Receives Lebanese Nationalist Delegation, Support Cables [VOP] A 1
VOP: Greece Intensifies Campaign Against Palestinians A 1
Kuwaiti Press Cited on Palestinian Government-in-Exile A 1
Support Urged A 2
ALF Calls for Convening Palestine National Council Meeting A 2
Arab Information Ministers Meeting Postponed to 27 Jan A 2

ARABIAN PENINSULA

UAE

UAE, UK Officials Discuss Middle East Situation C 1

YEMEN--PDRY

Planning Minister Delivers Political Lecture C 1
Aden: U.S. Naval Presence in Arabian Gulf Threatens Peace C 1

YEMEN--YAR

Interior Minister Reports Wide-Scale Fighting in South C 2

EGYPT

Cabinet Issues Political Statement on Peace Talks D 1
Cabinet Approves Development Plan D 2
Butrus Ghali Says Peace Negotiations Not Deadlocked D 3
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Jan]
Egyptian Envoys in Arab Countries To Meet Under Ghali D 6
Cairo Radio Relays As-Sadat Arrival in Aswan D 6

IRAQ

KUNA: Embassy Spokesman Denies 18 Communists Executed E 1
Ba'th Party, PLO Delegation Conclude Baghdad Talks E 1
President al-Bakr Addresses Message to Armed Forces E 1

JORDAN

New Iranian Ambassador to Jordan Arrives in Amman F 1
Islamic Affairs Minister Returns From Qatar F 1
AR-RA'Y Comments on Israeli Settlement Policy [3 Jan] F 1
AL-AKHBAR Warns Against U.S. Threat to Oil-Rich Gulf States [30 Dec] F 2
AD-DUSTUR Comments on Israeli Premier's Press Remarks [30 Dec] F 2

LEBANON

VOL Reports Changes in Deterrent Forces Officers Ranks G 1
Sarkis Chairs 3 Jan Meeting on Security Measures G 1
Nationalist Movement Issues Statement After Meetings G 2
Joint Forces in South Fire on Israeli Gunboats G 2

SYRIA

Defense Minister Arrives in Moscow on Official Visit H 1
Iraqi Labor Minister Arrives for Talks 3 Jan H 1
Iraqi Side to Economic, Technical Committee Arrives H 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Council of Revolution Meets Prior to Party Congress I 1
Committee Set Up To Prepare FLN Congress I 1
FLN Official Pledges Continuity of Policy I 1
Exiled Minister: Algerian Law 'Adequate' for Democratization I 2
[Paris LE MATIN 29 Dec]

MOROCCO

King Hassan Appoints Minister for Saharan Affairs I 4

SUDAN

President Numayri Meets With U.S. Congressman Solarz I 4
Vice President Receives Solarz I 4

ISRAEL

Naval Action Taken Against Lebanese Coastal Areas N 1
Jerusalem: Details on Reopening of Talks Unknown N 1
Egyptian Cabinet Decision no Surprise; U.S. Initiative Expected N 1
['AL HAMISHMAR 4 Jan]
Jerusalem: Beirut Radio Reports Coup Attempt in Syria N 1
Ministry To Allocate Funds to Samaria Settlements N 2
Mayors of Samaria Towns Seek Permits To Go to Algeria N 2
Hebron Military Governor Discusses Makhpella Incident N 2
Components of Possible Cabinet Crisis Analyzed [DAVAR 3 Jan] N 3

IRAN

Tehran Carries Report on Bakhtiar Press Conference R 1
Tehran Commentator on Bakhtiar Efforts To Form Government R 6
Bakhtiar Interview Carried by Paris LE FIGARO [2 Jan] R 8
164 People Released From Mashhad Prison R 10
New Chief of Shah's Staff Appointed R 10
Negotiations Continue on Oil Industry Dispute in Ahvaz R 10
Committee Says Normal Refining 'Likely To Resume Shortly' R 11
Tehran Reports Scattered Demonstrations, Incidents 3 Jan R 11
Demonstrations After Curfew R 12
AFP: Opposition Leaders Call for Day of Mourning R 12
Khomeyni Urges Food, Oil Production 'For Domestic Needs' R 12

KYODO: Khomeyni Asks Indian Government for Visa R 13
Paris: Ayatollah Montazeri on 'Islamic' Government R 13
[Paris LE MATIN 30-31 Dec]

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Soviet Economic Cooperation Expansion Agreement Signed S 1
[cross-reference]

BANGLADESH

Zia Reiterates Martial Law Will Be Lifted S 1
President Amends Press Publications Ordinance S 2

INDIA

Prime Minister Desai: No 'Tilt' in Foreign Policy S 2
ISI Gives Desai Message on Family Planning Month S 3

NEPAL

PRC-Built Cotton Textile Mill Handed Over to Government S 4

SRI LANKA

Foreign Minister Gives Message on Nonalined Progress S 4
Somali Foreign Minister Pays 4-Day Visit S 5
Concludes Visit, Departs S 5

'ARAFAT RECEIVES LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATION, SUPPORT CABLES

JN040634Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar last night received a delegation of the executive committee of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. The delegation congratulated brother Abu 'Ammar and the Fatah movement command on the 14th anniversary of the rise of the Palestinian revolution. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has also received more cables of support and congratulations on the anniversary of the rise of the revolution. These cables came from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Politburo, the Central Committee of the Jordanian Communist Party, the leadership committee of the Palestinian communist organization in the West Bank, and the AAPSO [Asian-African People's Solidarity Organization] committee in Korea. The cables affirm support of the revolutionary march of the Palestinian people to achieve the goals of the Palestinian people in liberation, return home, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

VOP: GREECE INTENSIFIES CAMPAIGN AGAINST PALESTINIANS

NC032025Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 3 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Greek authorities have recently intensified their hostile campaign and measures against Palestinian students studying in Greek universities. A special report by the Palestinian News Agency WAFA, datelined Athens, says that this hostile campaign against the Palestinian people and the Arabs climaxed in the decision adopted on 10 December by the Greek police conference held in Salonika. This decision said, verbatim: Let the foreigners who want revolution get out and let's throw the Arabs out. This decision follows a series of arbitrary measures that have been carried out and are still being carried out by the Greek authorities against the Palestinian students. They take the form of pursuit, surveillance, forcible entry and search of the residences of the Palestinian students, in addition to imposing education restrictions by asking exorbitant university fees, discrimination and banning any Palestinian political, information or trade unionist activity. The peak of these measures was the armed confrontation of the Palestinian students who on 18 November 1978, 1 day before As-Sadat's treasonous trip to Jerusalem, proceeded in a demonstration toward the Egyptian Embassy to denounce the visit. As a result one Palestinian student was martyred and six others were wounded by the Greek police. Continuing their repressive measures, the Greek authorities deported 13 students the following day and carried on with their investigations and interrogation of Palestinian students in Greek universities [words indistinct] and canceled the residence permits of some students and harassed others.

KUWAITI PRESS CITED ON PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

LD011336Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Jan--Kuwait's AL-QABAS reports today that the formation of a provisional Palestinian government will be announced in mid-January and that contacts are continuing among the various resistance detachments over the allocation of portfolios in the Palestinian cabinet, which the paper says will be headed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has affirmed that he supports the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile as this will help to strengthen relations with various Arab and other friendly countries. In an interview with Kuwait's AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Qaddumi said the Palestinian National Council will convene 15 January in Damascus and that the council will have the last word on the matter.

Support Urged

NC040925Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0842 GMT 4 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jan--Quoting informed sources in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reports today that the Syrian and Libyan governments have emphasized their readiness to extend the necessary assistance for the establishment of a Palestinian government in exile on their territories. They have also welcomed the establishment of such a government. The paper adds that Kuwait also supports such a step and that Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah has expressed his readiness to support such a government when it is established. PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi had asserted during his recent visit to Kuwait that the question of establishing a government in exile would be discussed by the Palestinian National Council during its meetings, which are scheduled to be held in Damascus on 15 January.

ALF CALLS FOR CONVENING PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

JN040857Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0842 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 Jan--The Arab Liberation Front [AFL] has called for the convening of the Palestine National Council to approve a comprehensive plan to cope with the overall imperialist-Zionist liquidationist line in the Arab area. This came in a message of greetings which the ALF Central Committee sent to the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah, on the 14th anniversary of its rise. The message asserts the significance of the Palestinian national unity to cope with the dangers posed to the Palestinian issue, particularly the autonomy plot and the plans to settle Palestinians abroad. The message says that a clear Palestinian stand toward everything that is taking place seems today more urgent to safeguard the continuation of the revolution and the voice of the combat gun. Speaking about the developments which arose in the aftermath of the Camp David agreements, the ALF affirmed that the Joint Charter for National Action between Iraq and Syria together with the resolutions of the Bagndad summit constitute the practical reply to Camp David. The ALF called for similar steps in the Palestinian arena as a basis for national unity on the various levels.

ARAB INFORMATION MINISTERS MEETING POSTPONED TO 27 JAN

JN021429Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan--It has been decided to postpone the Arab information ministers conference to 27 January. The conference was to be held in Baghdad on 16 January. Ministry of Information sources have stated that the postponement of the conference is due to the convening of the Arab youth ministers conference in Baghdad at the same time. The sources pointed out that the Arab information ministers conference will aim at coordinating Arab information efforts and formulating an effective Arab information policy at the international level. The sources added that Iraq submitted a working paper outlining Iraq's concept of Arab information activities in the world in light of the treasonous Camp David agreements concluded between the Zionist enemy and the As-Sadat regime.

UAE

UAE, UK OFFICIALS DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

JN031522Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1245 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jan--Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Denis Walter, member of the British Parliament and chief of the Parliamentary League for Arab-European Cooperation, who is currently visiting the UAE.

They discussed recent developments in the Middle East as well as international events. Walter arrived in Abu Dhabi last night on a 2-day official visit to the UAE during his current tour of the states in the area.

YEMEN--PDRY

PLANNING MINISTER DELIVERS POLITICAL LECTURE

LD031734Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the Political Bureau and minister of planning, has emphasized that our Yemeni people will continue their struggle against all enemies until their Yemen is unified and the dreams of the historical enemies are destroyed. In a political lecture this morning to students of the higher college of education and students of the higher school for scientific socialism, he said the most important war that our people have waged and continued to wage was the one which began with the 26 September revolution against their historical enemies who want our people to remain under their control.

He touched on the current situation in the northern part of the homeland and explained that the San'a' regime is currently suffering from unparalleled political, economic and social crises. He explained that the agent San'a' regime is spreading alarm among the citizens. He said this is nothing more than implementation of the orders and wishes of world colonialism and Arab reaction and their imposition on our Yemeni people.

He pointed out that the setting up of the DNF [Democratic National Front] has implemented a germane goal on which the honorable nationalist forces pin their hopes for liquidating the imperialist and reactionary forces in our country. He emphasized that the unity of the nationalist and honorable forces in the Yemeni arena is essential for confronting the dangers that lie in wait for our Yemeni people and for realizing all the aims of the Yemeni revolution.

ADEN: U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN ARABIAN GULF THREATENS PEACE

LD032038Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Brothers! Under the heading: The naval presence of U.S. imperialism in the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean is a threat to peace and stability, the political commentator of the ADEN NEWS AGENCY says:

The continuing mass demonstrations and violent uprisings against the shah's regime sweeping Iran today have revealed the vanity of imperialist claims that the shah's regime is a model of stability in the Middle East and have demonstrated to political circles throughout the world that the shah's regime, which has been a burden on the people ever since the coup d'etat engineered by the American CIA to topple the nationalist government of Mossadeq in 1953, has pursued a constant policy of terrorism, repression and obstruction of liberties and [word indistinct], while continuing to receive military support from the United States.

The Iranian people's uprising and its intensification have disturbed American imperialism and disquieted its circles for fear of their strategic interests, particularly oil supplies. They fear that the toppling of the shah's regime and the advent of a new one which will respond to the people's political and social demands and their opposition to imperialism [words indistinct].

It is now evident that by choosing to stand by the shahanshah and the military leaders, U.S. imperialism is pitting itself against the logic of history and the will of millions of Iranians. The posting of units of the U.S. 7th Fleet to the Indian Ocean and the eastern African coasts and the training of U.S. naval landing units for use in operations of intervention in the Arabian Gulf serve to expose U.S. imperialism's plan to save the shah's regime from collapse by means of military intervention. The military naval movement by the United States to the gateways of the Indian Ocean is nothing but a new game by which the U.S. imperialists intend to repeat in Iran their policy of (?extended) intervention as they did before in Vietnam. Whatever the new aggressive designs of U.S. imperialism, its new movements in the Indian Ocean will meet the condemnation and resistance of the forces of peace and democracy throughout the world and of all the peoples of the Indian Ocean littoral who aspire for peace, stability and cooperation on the basis of respect for sovereignty. The new aggressive designs being contrived by U.S. imperialism to interfere in the internal affairs of the Iranian people and threaten the sovereignty of the progressive regimes in the region constitute a blatant breach of the policy of international detente and a flouting of the wish of the international community that the Indian Ocean should continue to be a lake of peace and free from destructive military bases. Democratic Yemen has fully supported efforts to reinforce peace and stability in the Indian Ocean and firmly supported the Iranian people's struggle to realize their aspirations for freedom, full sovereignty and progress. It is certain that the dangers that will result from the movements of the units of the American 7th Fleet in the Indian Ocean, will not only affect Iran, which is now passing through a deep political crisis, but all the countries of the region, particularly those which have chosen the road of independent development and hostility to world imperialism, including Afghanistan, socialist Ethiopia, Democratic Yemen and fraternal Iraq. Therefore we are confident that the aggressive intentions of the United States against all the nationalist and progressive regimes and all the forces which love stability and peace must collapse. The despotic regimes of the shah, which only receives the support of the imperialist circles and the more reactionary elements in the region, cannot hold out against the inevitable march of history and the will of the Iranian people.

YEMEN--YAR

INTERIOR MINISTER REPORTS WIDE-SCALE FIGHTING IN SOUTH

JN0213202 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Interior Minister Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati this morning held a press conference during which he announced that wide-scale military operations have been taking place in the southern sector of Yemen for the last 5 days. The confrontation is between the armed forces and nationalist elements supporting late President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, and groups of mercenaries hired by the new ruler of Aden. This confrontation is part of the power struggle that followed the assassination of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali.

The interior minister confirmed that a state of disorder prevails in several districts of the southern sector, particularly in the second and fifth districts. He added that 17 soldiers from the south have recently arrived in Ta'izz and that those soldiers are part of a company in the area of As-Subayhah. The interior minister categorically denied that the YAR Air Force has participated in any recent military operations. He reiterated the appeal of President Salih to the Arab League to send a military investigation committee to check position on Yemeni borders.

CABINET ISSUES POLITICAL STATEMENT ON PEACE TALKS

NC0316l0Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 January--After its 6-hour meeting today, the Cabinet issued a political statement on the peace discussions. The following is the text of the statement, which was read by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil:

The Cabinet met today in a plenary session: I reviewed the details and results of the round of discussions I held in Brussels on 23 and 24 December with the U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli foreign minister. The Cabinet reviewed the developments of the situation in light of Egypt's continuous efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable settlement in the Middle East.

While reaffirming Egypt's eagerness to work for the consolidation of peace in the Middle East, the Cabinet reaffirms this at this time [as received], particularly in the light of the recent international variables. The Cabinet adheres to what Egypt has always said--that in order for peace in the Middle East to be durable, it must be comprehensive and just. Therefore, Egypt will not sign a separate agreement that does not conform with the spirit of the Camp David agreements and their framework for a comprehensive solution. Therefore, Egypt believes that the signing of the agreement pertaining to the method of holding elections and the establishment of Palestinian autonomy should be linked with the signing of the agreement between Egypt and Israel, whereby the establishment of autonomy and the abolition of the Israeli military rule would take place in accordance with a timetable on which both sides would agree in an identical exchanged letter to be attached to the peace treaty.

The Cabinet considers that the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel must arrange for normal relations between both countries on an equal footing, like relations with all other states, and that no side should acquire a privileged position. Therefore, it is not acceptable that this treaty should result in any encroachments on other charters or treaties.

The Cabinet welcomed the fact that the United States continues to perform its role as a full partner in the peace efforts. It also noted with satisfaction the wide world support Egypt's position and efforts are receiving. This support will have its tangible effect in paving the way for the comprehensive and just peace to which the Arab peoples and all peoples in the world aspire.

The Cabinet affirmed that Egypt is still ready to continue to exert efforts to conclude a peace treaty with Israel on the aforementioned bases, which guarantee that the peace will be comprehensive, just and durable and will lead to the consolidation of peace in the Middle East.

The Cabinet then discussed the forthcoming wide-ranging Egyptian diplomatic move to inform all states about the developments in the situation.

After reading this statement, Dr Khalil answered questions asked by reporters.

Asked if there were an inclination at present to resume the negotiations, the prime minister said that Egypt is willing to resume the efforts for signing a peace treaty with Israel on the already stated bases. He said peace must be comprehensive and not a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Answering another question, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that within the next 2 days he will send a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance containing the Egyptian viewpoint. He added: We will leave the method by which contact will be established between both sides to Vance.

He said if these contacts bore fruit, the negotiations could begin.

[Doha QNA in Arabic at 0909 GMT on 4 January says that: "the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that the Egyptian prime minister's message to Cyrus Vance will include several proposals on the steps to be taken in the future so that the U.S. secretary of state may choose any of them in light of the replies he will receive from Egypt and Israel. These proposals are:

["1. That a meeting similar to the Brussels meeting be held; 2. That a meeting between Dr Mustafa Khalil and Cyrus Vance be held; 3. A new tour of the area by Cyrus Vance."]

Answering a third question, Dr Khalil said: It was agreed at our meeting in Brussels that each side would study the results of the talks and then send its views to Mr Vance, regardless of the views of the other side.

He said that the Israeli decision was not, in fact, discussed during today's meeting.

Asked if the meeting was devoted to a discussion of foreign policy, Dr Khalil said that 75 percent of the session was devoted to foreign policy, with the aim of issuing this statement.

Asked if the United States had conveyed the Israeli Cabinet's decision regarding the negotiations to Egypt, the prime minister answered in the negative.

About his expectations regarding the resumption of the negotiations, Dr Mustafa Khalil said: I have told you that we agreed in Brussels that each side will send a message to Cyrus Vance containing its viewpoint. I still cannot rely on unofficial sources in my statements.

Asked if Egypt is willing to resume the negotiations, the prime minister said yes, but at a later stage.

Cabinet Approves Development Plan

NC031952Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jan 79 NC

[Text] The Cabinet today approved the 1979 draft economic and social development plan. In this plan, investments amount to 3,465 billion pounds, guaranteeing the provision of the requirements for the various sectors.

Planning Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid has stated that average production growth is expected to reach approximately 10 percent, and that average national income is expected to increase by approximately 11 percent after deducting price increases.

The plan took into consideration a just distribution in accordance with regional planning so that it may express the needs of the people in all regions.

The Cabinet also approved the establishment of the National Investment Bank, which will oversee implementation of the plan's investment programs. The plan aims at providing 300,000 new jobs.

The cabinet further approved the state's general budget for the current year. Finance Minister 'Ali Lutfi has stated that revenues in this budget amount to 10,245 billion pounds and that expenditures amount to 12,925 billion pounds. He added that the budget allocates about 1 billion pounds for the armed forces; 255 million for foodstuff security projects; 1.17 billion for subsidizing essential commodities and services; 614 million for education, health, culture and other services; 390 million for the construction of new cities, implementation of housing projects and subsidizing the construction sector; 870 million to meet debt commitments; 2.56 billion for development; 959 million for transport and communications projects and basic utilities.

The total sum of wages in the budget is 1.258 billion pounds. The draft budget also includes 85 million pounds to ease the burdens of the peasants, reduce interest on agricultural loans and exempt all kinds of small agricultural machines from taxes and customs fees.

The finance minister further said that this year's budget aims at developing and strengthening local governments by allocating independent budgets for each governorate. The budget also aims at cutting back government expenditures and confining them to the actual needs of the services organs and economic organizations and at doing away with luxuries and extravagance. The budget also aims at applying price incentives to include all free currency transaction and transactions concluded with the payment agreements states that belong to the IMF.

BUTRUS GHALI SAYS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS NOT DEADLOCKED

LD031725Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jan 79 pp 1, 2 LD

[Unattributed interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali in Cairo--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Now that the peace negotiations have reached a semi-impasse, is there a clear view of the next step that should be taken to lift them out of it, and which party is required to take the initiative in the effort to revive the talks?

[Answer] The negotiations have not yet reached a semi-impasse because the three parties concerned--Egypt, the United States and Israel--have expressed their desire to overcome the obstacles so as to continue with the negotiations.

The next step will be further negotiations to overcome these obstacles.

With regard to reviving the negotiations, it is something that the three parties should do because overcoming difficulties needs more than a single will.

[Question] What about the U.S. role in the coming stage?

[Answer] The U.S. role is that of a full partner. This role will not change; in other words, the U.S. side is participating in the negotiations and will participate in the implementation of agreements that might result from the conclusion of the desired treaties.

[Question] Israel claims that Egypt has introduced a new element into the peace negotiations and that the question of linking the implementation of self-rule in the West Bank to the agreement on Sinai was not included in the Camp David agreements. Statements by some U.S. officials immediately after the Camp David meeting agreed with this Israeli view. What is the Egyptian attitude toward this?

[Answer] This is not true. Since both agreements were signed on the same day, and in view of the fact that both Egypt and Israel will play a major role in implementing the agreements, whether in the West Bank and Gaza or in Sinai, it is practically and categorically established that there is a link between what happens in one area and what happens in the other. There is a close tie between both Camp David agreements. What we are now asking for is the confirmation of such a tie.

There is also a clear tie from a legal standpoint. Indeed a timetable was laid down. For example, the first Camp David agreement stipulates that negotiations concerning the final status of Gaza and the West Bank must begin after 3 years, which is the same period in which total withdrawal from Sinai must be completed. The U.S. side has confirmed this interpretation. We raised the question of linkage from the first day of negotiations. Consequently, it is clear that Egypt did not introduce any new elements into the peace negotiations. Rather, these elements were made clear in the Camp David negotiations. Whoever looks at the agreements, even if he is not a legal expert, can see that the linkage has been mentioned and that the timetable has also been mentioned.

[Question] What is the difference between linkage and the timetable?

[Answer] Linkage is the close tie desired between the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the comprehensive settlement, whereas the timetable commits the contracting parties to specific dates. Briefly, the linkage is the place and the timetable is the time. And to confirm the comprehensiveness of the settlement, we wanted to link the geographical and time stages. This applies to Sinai and, consequently, to the West Bank simultaneously.

[Question] Have any ideas been proposed to expand the Middle East negotiations and involve new parties in them, as a means of extricating the negotiations from their semi-impasse? Do such ideas include the Geneva conference, with all the parties to it?

[Answer] Ideas have been proposed, which were mentioned at Camp David and in the draft Egyptian-Israeli treaty, to the effect that the treaty is considered a first step to be followed by other steps to conclude other treaties between the Arab sides and Israel. These treaties will be founded on the same basis as the Egyptian-Israeli treaty: namely, total withdrawal from all the Arab territories and the abolition of settlements, as in the case of Sinai. The Arab countries will benefit from this precedent when they negotiate with Israel. Added to this is the fact that Egypt is prepared to play the role of full partner in the negotiations that might take place between the Arab countries and Israel to provide them with its expertise and experience in negotiations with the Israelis. All in all, these treaties will be the comprehensive solution. They will then be submitted to the Security Council for endorsement since Article Six of the Framework for Peace in the Middle East provides that "the UN Security Council shall be asked to endorse the peace treaty and guarantee the nonviolation of its provisions; and the Security Council permanent members shall be asked to guarantee the peace treaty and respect for its provisions and shall also be asked that their policies and actions be compatible with the pledges contained in the framework."

This shows that the five major powers, including the United States and the Soviet Union, will be asked to ratify the treaties. This formula will be tantamount to a new Geneva conference. However, there are no proposals to convene the Geneva conference during any stages of the negotiations.

[Question] Is there any inclination to initiate a calm dialog between Egypt and certain Arab countries as well as with the Palestinians with the aim of settling the present differences over the Camp David agreements and reaching a minimum agreement on the future steps toward a peaceful solution?

[Answer] A dialog is currently taking place on the diplomatic level between Egypt and the moderate Arab states as well as between Egypt and the Palestinians in general and the PLO in particular. Despite the statements made in Damascus to the effect that no contacts are taking place with the PLO, I can affirm that contacts are continuing on various levels. In fact, these contacts and the dialog you referred to never stopped.

[Question] The solution provided by the Camp David agreements for the Palestine problem is self-rule on the West Bank and Gaza, whereas the solution that the PLO accepts for the problem is the establishment of a Palestinian state on liberated Palestinian soil. Is it possible to reconcile the self-rule formula and the formula of establishing a Palestinian state?

[Answer] There is no contradiction between both solutions because self-rule is the stage definitely leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state. If there is any difference, it involves the method to be pursued in the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Some of the Palestinians believe that liberation war is the only means to achieve these legitimate rights while Egypt, following President as-Sadat's initiative, believes that diplomatic, civilized and political confrontation are the ideal means to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

[Question] Menahem Begin declared that he is prepared to hold explanatory talks with Egypt on the problem of self-rule on the West Bank and Gaza and to review security arrangements in Sinai, provided that there is no stipulation on the date of implementing self-rule or reviewing security arrangements in the manner demanded by Egypt. Do you believe that Begin's statement signals any change on Israel's attitude, and what is Egypt's attitude toward this?

[Answer] The Egyptian negotiator does not accept preconditions but is prepared to negotiate for the sake of achieving peace in the area.

[Question] Now that the talks have come to a halt and each side adheres to its attitude, what guarantees are there that the state of no war, no peace, which existed before the October 1973 war, will not return to the area?

[Answer] The guarantee is the will of the Egyptian side and the U.S. side to continue the negotiations to establish real peace in the entire area. This common Egyptian-U.S. goal will overcome the present stalemate.

[Question] How would you visualize the Middle East map in the event that peace efforts succeed and a peace treaty is signed between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] A new stage of diplomatic action will begin--a stage whose difficulty we should not belittle. This would involve intensive negotiations with the Israeli side following the signing of the treaty with a view to making arrangements for elections on the West Bank and Gaza--elections that will lead to the establishment of Palestinian rule. This requires intensive efforts.

[Question] Will the present disruption in the Arab world continue as it is now?

[Answer] By virtue of its positions and political and diplomatic weight and in view of the attraction that peace has among all the peoples, Egypt can overcome the present disruption in the Arab world.

EGYPTIAN ENVOYS IN ARAB COUNTRIES TO MEET UNDER GHALI

NC031355Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jan 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 January--Three days of important meetings will be held at the Foreign Ministry beginning Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali. The meetings will be attended by the Egyptian ambassadors to the Arab countries.

During the meetings, an assessment of the general Arab situation will be made and the relations between Egypt and each Arab state discussed. The discussions will also deal with the effect the situation in a number of states surrounding the Arab area has on the Arab situation; foreign attempts to interfere in the Arab world; the conditions of the Egyptian communities in the Arab states, the problems they are facing and the means to solve them.

The meetings will be attended by Foreign Ministry under secretaries and a number of department directors in the ministry; the Egyptian ambassadors to Tunisia, Morocco, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Somalia, Djibouti, the YAR and Mauritania; and the officials looking after Egyptian interests in Algeria and the PDRY.

Each of the ambassadors will present a report on the subjects on the meeting's agenda. A general debate will also take place and is expected to result in specific recommendations within the framework of Egyptian efforts to achieve both basic aims of regaining full Arab rights and consolidating Arab solidarity.

Dr Butrus Ghali will brief the Egyptian ambassadors on the latest developments in the Middle East situation in light of Egypt's continuing efforts to achieve a comprehensive, lasting and just settlement in the area.

Meetings will be held between the Egyptian ambassadors participating in the meeting and a number of ministers to discuss certain aspects of the technical, economic and cultural relations with the Arab states.

Dr Ghali will give a luncheon for the conferees on Wednesday.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1625 GMT on 3 January adds that "MENA has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry intends to hold similar conferences of Egypt's ambassadors in the various continents and international societies within the framework of its current diplomatic move to prepare (?detailed reports) on all events and expectations in the Arab area and the various international arenas."]

CAIRO RADIO RELAYS AS-SADAT ARRIVAL IN ASWAN

NC041144 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1057 GMT on 4 January, after linking up with the Voice of Arabs Radio, begins a live relay from Aswan to describe the arrival of President Anwar as-Sadat in the city. The announcer says that As-Sadat had arrived by plane at Aswan airport a few minutes before accompanied by a delegation.

The announcer describes President as-Sadat's motorcade through the streets of Aswan, saying that thousands of people, including tourist, are lining the streets to welcome the president.

The president, the announcer says, is due to inspect food security projects in the governorate. The relay ends at 1128 GMT; no speeches were delivered.

KUNA: EMBASSY SPOKESMAN DENIES 18 COMMUNISTS EXECUTED

LD031616Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--An Iraqi Embassy spokesman today denied reports by Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH that the Iraqi authorities executed 18 communist militarymen last month. The spokesman told KUNA that the AS-SIYASAH reports were without foundation.

The same newspaper reported that eight members of the Iraqi Communist Party Central Committee, including Mr Majid 'Abd ar-Riza, had been arrested. The spokesman said that Mr 'Abd ar-Riza published an article under his name on 2 January in the organ of the Iraqi Communist Party, TARIQ ASH-SHAB.

BA'TH PARTY, PLO DELEGATION CONCLUDE BAGHDAD TALKS

JN041249Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 January--The talks between the delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member Na'im Haddad and the PLO delegation under head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi were concluded here today.

An atmosphere of frankness and amity prevailed during the talks. The two delegations discussed the most important issues of interest to the Arab struggle, particularly as regards the current situation involving the Palestinian issue. They also discussed the formulas guaranteeing the support of the PLO and the steadfastness of the Palestinian masses in the occupied areas. The PLO delegation arrived here last Tuesday.

PRESIDENT AL-BAKR ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO ARMED FORCES

JN041256Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1224 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr addressed a message today to the members of the Iraqi Armed Forces on the 58th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army, which will be on Saturday 6 January.

The following is the text of President al-Bakr's message: My sons, members of the armed forces: While you are celebrating the 58th anniversary of the birth of the army of Arabdom, it pleases me to convey to you my warm congratulations. I would like to laud you for your genuine revolutionary spirit, which has been manifested in your defense of your principles of the sovereignty of the homeland and the nation.

The history of our brave army represents the most remarkable shining picture of the struggle of our Arab people in all eras for the sake of achieving the goals of the Arab nation. Since our party bases its principles on the fateful connection with our pan-Arab issues and on extreme concern to live up to the level of this connection and to preserve the gains achieved by our nation through long struggle, and for the sake of rewarding the great sacrifices offered by our patient Arab nation, for the sake of all this, we ask you to be prepared to regain our usurped rights, for which we are all struggling and offering our best sons.

You have had the honor of carrying out heroic acts and getting martyred as well as the honor of steadfastness and defiance in all the battles of our Arab nation against the colonialism, reaction and imperialism because you are the revolutionary ideological army. I hope that you will keep this spirit at all times and in all places.

I wish you every good and success in achieving the gaols of our nation in unity, freedom and socialism.

NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN010733Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Jan 79 p 12 JN

[Text] Amman--JNA--Ali Reza Bayat, the new Iranian ambassador to the Royal Hashemite Court, arrived in Amman last night to assume his new post. The ambassador said that he hopes to contribute through his new mission toward serving and developing the existing friendly relations between Iran and Jordan.

ISLAMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER RETURNS FROM QATAR

JN020623Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jan 79 JN

[Excerpt] Kamil ash-Sharif, minister of Awqaf, Islamic affairs and holy places, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Amman from Doha this evening following an 8-day visit to the UAE and Qatar.

AR-RA'Y COMMENTS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY

JN020623Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Jan 79 pp 1, 11 JN

[Editorial: "The Theatrics of Settlement"]

[Excerpts] In the midst of the information clamor revolving around the interpretation of the clauses of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the Gush Emunim Movement, whose members are currently living in the Israeli Army military camps in the occupied West Bank, began making breaches in the fence encircling these camps in order to build settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The theatrics of the current settlement movements are a sincere adaptation of the settlement tales of the American West. European settlers, mostly Jews, used to accompany the U.S. cavalry, lived in the U.S. cavalry camps, took their time to choose the suitable land on which they would settle, then occupied these lands by force of the U.S. Army and expelled the red Indians, owners of the land, who opposed the settling of foreigners on their ancestors' land.

The same theatrics are taking place now in the occupied Arab lands. The Palestinian people, owners of the land, have almost been transformed into another renegade group of red Indians with the intensification of settlements along the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The phenomena that make one feel pain are that the Israeli Army apparently pretends to prevent settlements in certain areas and that the issue of settlement has been transformed into a problem between the Israeli Army and the settlers, as if the land were vacated by its owners and as if the Arab world were asleep, drugged by the slogans it has consumed for the past three decades.

Have the Arabs lost any feeling of the danger regarding what is currently taking place in the occupied territories? Who can guarantee us that Israeli aggressions against Arab lands and individuals will not be repeated on a wider scale?

What is taking place in the occupied Arab territories is dangerous. The Arab inability to confront this danger in a decisive manner threatens the Arab presence, which at present encircles the Zionist entity.

AL-AKHBAR WARNS AGAINST U.S. THREAT TO OIL-RICH GULF STATES

JN301238Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Dec 78 p 7 JN

[Rakan al-Majali article: "What Is Behind the Show of Force?"]

[Text] The announcement by the United States that it is sending warships to the gulf region demonstrates the possibility of U.S. military interference in Iran. This announcement is also a direct threat to the oil states, especially the gulf emirates which took part in raising OPEC's oil prices by 14.5 percent. Iran might be the pretext, but the show of force is directed against the entire gulf region. This show of force is a natural U.S. response to the Baghdad summit resolutions, and to the positive participation of the oil states in the conference and their moral and material commitments to the confrontation states, especially Jordan and Syria.

The announcement about sending U.S. warships to the Arab Gulf region brings to mind previous threats by the United States that the oil sources would be occupied if the need arose. When these threats were made, the U.S. papers published detailed aggressive plans for a U.S. military landing to occupy the oil sources. These plans were accompanied by sinister articles on the importance of oil and on its being the lifeline of the advanced countries and thus the lifeline of the whole world. They issued justifications in the name of humanity and progress. But these justifications were a cover for the desire for hegemony and the imperial lust of the United States to control through military means the oil sources in case its economic and political control in the region is exposed to any threat or to any possibility of a change in the status quo.

We are confident that at present the whole world does not accept any form of military occupation or military control, yet the U.S. empire is still able to back Israel in its continued occupation of Arab territories. The United States deals with this issue as though it were of academic interest and a matter of opinion, yet the United States has to be and is in fact strong enough to occupy the oil fields. The Arabs, therefore, must be prepared to face this and other eventualities because evil will spread when interests and influence so demand.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON ISRAELI PREMIER'S PRESS REMARKS

JN300951Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Dec 78 pp 1, 19 JN

[Editorial: "Fallacies"]

[Excerpts] When Menahem Begin says that his government was ready to sign the peace treaty with Egypt on the date specified in the Camp David agreement--that is, on 17 December--and blames the Egyptian Government for the delay in the signing, he is in fact addressing President Carter who has said that the obstacles raised by Israel were behind the failure of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's last mission in the Middle East and that President as-Sadat was "honorable" in his response to the compromise solutions proposed by Washington to hold the signing on time.

Whoever reads the statements by Menahem Begin yesterday in which the Israeli prime minister tried to show Israel's readiness to resume the negotiations while maintaining its old stand against any changes to the peace treaty immediately notes that the statements were not intended to reactivate the stalled negotiations but to mount a propaganda campaign in reply to Washington's and Cairo's accusations that Israel is responsible for the failure of the peace efforts.

Until this campaign of accusations and counteraccusations in the media between the Camp David partners settles down, the unanswered basic question will remain: How will it be possible to reconcile the Egyptian and Israeli stands which now totally contradict one another on the Palestine question. [paragraph continues]

Egypt wants a clear Israeli commitment to the autonomy plan giving its treaty with Israel the appearance of a comprehensive solution. On the other hand, Israel insists on not linking the two agreements and not committing itself to solving the Palestine question in the manner viewed by Egypt and the United States. This is because what Israel really wants is a separate deal with Egypt.

Thus it is impossible to reconcile the two stands unless one side gives in to the other. This is because the dispute is not over wording, but over a point affecting the basic stands of the two countries. If Egypt agrees to give in to Israeli intransigence, this would mean only one thing: The signing of a separate peace treaty with Israel; and if Israel agrees to give in to Egypt, this would mean only one thing: Israel's readiness to start a process which, with time, would end its existence and gains in the occupied areas.

This is the reason for the current perplexed American stand which has brought U.S. diplomacy to a standstill. The United States knows full well that a situation where one side would have to give in to the other would only mean proceeding along either the course of a separate solution or the course of a comprehensive solution with all the results that either course might have on the Middle East scene. There can be no middle course.

Finally, we have one remark to make on Butrus Ghali's statements about the "Palestinian state," statements which obviously infuriated Israel and prompted Menahem Begin to answer them at his press conference yesterday. In our opinion, Ghali's statements are no more than an attempt to force Israel's hand and to make it change its intransigent stand with regard to the points on which there is disagreement. It is no secret that President as-Sadat has abandoned the idea of the Palestinian state. As a matter of fact, the solution he agreed to at Camp David rules out the subject of the Palestinian state, at least in the near future. Therefore, Begin's fear of the idea of such a state is false and his arguments in rejecting the idea of this state are ridiculous, especially because he said that such a state would become a Soviet base threatening the whole world.

How can he ridicule human intellect in this way? Who can believe that a small Palestinian state can threaten the security of Israel when the Jews themselves claim that their state is the strongest military power in the Middle East? How was Begin able to so accurately define the identity and foreign policy of this state even before it is established? Why could he not presume, for instance, that the Palestinian state would be a neutral state with balanced relations with all countries?

We can understand Begin's rejection of the idea of the state on the basis that he wants to seize the territory on which the Palestinian state would be established. After all, Begin has reiterated several times that this is part of Eretz Yisra'il. However, his arguments that a Palestinian state would be military danger to Israel and the entire free world are ridiculous. He is so illogical that he cannot even invent an acceptable lie.

VOL REPORTS CHANGES IN DETERRENT FORCES OFFICERS RANKS

NC041251Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 4 Jan 79 NC

[Text] It has been reported that extensive changes are taking place in the ranks of the Arab deterrent officers in Lebanon. It has been learned that these changes fall within the framework of recent changes in the Syrian Army Command posts, including the appointment of Intelligence Department Chief Brig Gen al-Madani as ambassador to an East European state. The reports link the changes that have taken place in Syria and are now taking place in Lebanon with some recent developments in Syria.

[Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon at 2015 GMT on 3 January cites a "reliable Damascus source" who sayr that Al-Madani was appointed as ambassador to Poland and that "Nabih (?Zuhayr) has succeeded Al-Madani as chief of the Syrian Intelligence Department."]

SARKIS CHAIRS 3 JAN MEETING ON SECURITY MEASURES

NC031242Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At 0930 today President Sarkis chaired the security meeting, which, in addition to Prime Minister al-Huss, was attended by Interior Minister Salah Salman; the defense minister and army commander, Gen Victor Khuri; the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] commander, Col Sami al-Khatib; and the director general of the Internal Security Forces, Staff Brig Gen Ahmad al-Haj.

The meeting continued until 1130. After the meeting, the following statement was issued:

The military commands reviewed the security reports concerning the armed manifestations. According to these reports, it transpires that tangible progress has been made toward removing armed manifestations in all the areas in which the regular forces are present. The ADF Command reported that armed manifestations have been removed from the areas where the ADF had been stationed, particularly in the capital and its suburbs. The ADF Command also continues to control the security situation through joint patrols with the Internal Security Forces and independent ADF patrols. Personnel manning the permanent roadblocks have also been assigned to security tasks in the areas where they are stationed. The personnel manning these roadblocks have been given the task of setting up mobile and foot patrols to consolidate the security situation and prevent all types of armed manifestations. Armed political demonstrations have also been banned in all areas.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army Command has reported that it has strengthened its presence in the areas in which it is stationed, particularly along the coastal road between Judaydah and Jisr al-Madfun. The Lebanese Army Command has also stepped up its patrols between the permanent roadblocks to insure the removal of the armed manifestations. The results of these measures have been positive.

The Internal Security Forces Command reported that it has increased the number of its independent patrols and its joint patrols with the ADF, particularly in Beirut and its suburbs. These forces are also concentrating on suppressing attacks and thefts by arresting a number of criminals and culprits.

After assessing the outcome of the first stage, the meeting also dealt with the problems of security gaps. It was decided to take immediate steps to complete the removal of the remnants of armed manifestations, beginning with areas in which public services and institutions are located.

Concerning the closure of the security gaps with regular forces, the participants in the meeting found out that this matter requires a bit more time to enable the regular forces to complete the necessary preparatory work and thus insure proper implementation.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT AFTER MEETINGS

JN032031Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 3 January--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has again warned against the seriousness of the situation in southern Lebanon and the failure of the UNIFIL to fulfill its tasks. A statement issued by the movement's Political Council at the end of its periodical meeting here today affirms that the handing over of a number of villages situated in the area of the UN forces to the forces of rightist Maj Sa'd Haddad, as well as the obscure, weak and defeatist stand of the Lebanese authorities toward the issue of the south, are not considered to be in the national interest and represent a squandering of pan-Arab rights.

The statement condemns the calls made by the rightwing forces to apply the so-called self-security and holds these forces responsible for not implementing the Bayt ad-Din resolutions and for foiling Arab efforts to end the Lebanese crisis.

The statement calls on the Lebanese authorities to strengthen the army and purge it of the elements dealing with the Zionist enemy. It also calls for abolishing armed manifestations and imposing the respect of law in the regions controlled by the isolationist gangs.

The council concluded its statement by honoring the memory of late Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The council said that his memory will remain a torch on the road of the Arab liberation struggle because this memory represents sacrifice, solidarity and steadfastness.

JOINT FORCES IN SOUTH FIRE ON ISRAELI GUNBOATS

JN031856Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 3 January--The joint forces of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance opened fire this evening on four Zionist gunboats spotted in the territorial waters off the southern city of Tyre. The INA correspondent in the south said two Zionist helicopters were circling over the area when the Zionist gunboats were seen. He added that these aircraft extended the area of their reconnaissance as far as Sidon.

On another development, the correspondent said that the exodus of citizens from some regions under the control of isolationists in southern Lebanon has increased, especially from An-Nabatiyah toward Sidon and Az-Zahrani.

The correspondent quoted sources of the joint forces as saying that they expect Zionist aggression within the next 48 hours against the Palestinian camps and the nationalist areas in southern Lebanon.

The INA correspondent in Beirut said that Lebanese airspace today was the scene of activity by Zionist warplanes. These planes were seen periodically flying at high altitudes.

[Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon at 1715 GMT on 3 January notes that "it has been reported from the northern province that Fatah has staged processions and that heavy tanks, heavy guns and light weapons were seen for the first time during these processions. It is recalled that the Arab deterrent forces command had previously banned such armed processions."]

DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN MOSCOW ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JN041122Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Deputy Commander in Chief of the army and armed forces and Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas arrived in Moscow today at the head of a military delegation for an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet defense minister.

IRAQI LABOR MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS 3 JAN

JN032020Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Bakr Mahmud Rasul, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening at the head of a delegation made up of several high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and from the social security establishment.

During its visit of several days to Syria, the Iraqi delegation will hold official talks with a Syrian delegation led by Yusuf Ju'aydani, minister of social affairs and labor, aimed at coordinating and unifying labor laws and regulations as well as social security and welfare in the fraternal countries in light of the Joint National Action Charter signed by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr in October.

The Iraqi minister and the delegation accompanying him were received by the minister of social affairs and labor; members of the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Workers; the director of the social security establishment, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Damascus.

IRAQI SIDE TO ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ARRIVES

JN041026Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 4 January--The Iraqi side to the Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation Committee stemming from the Joint Supreme Political Commission of the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria arrived in Damascus today to attend the first general meeting of the committee, which will be held here later on.

The Iraqi side is headed by 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of planning. It includes Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade; Muhammad 'Ayish, RCC member and minister of industry and minerals; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; and 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of irrigation. The delegation also includes the under secretaries of the ministries of planning, oil, industry and minerals, agriculture and agrarian reform, and transport. The delegation also includes several heads of departments and establishments attached to these ministers.

Prior to his departure from Baghdad, 'Adnan Husayn, RCC member and minister of planning, said that the conferees will discuss the results of the technical contacts that took place between the fraternal countries following the proclamation of the Joint National Action Charter. He also said the conferees will reach decisive results on the path of unifying the interests between them andplacing them within one framework to achieve the unionist goal in light of the Joint National Action Charter.

It will be recalled that the Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation Committee is in charge of achieving bilateral coordination, integration and cooperation and of developing relations in agriculture, industry, irrigation, trade, planning and transport, and all other economic and technical fields.

ALGERIA

COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEETS PRIOR TO PARTY CONGRESS

LD031350Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Within the framework of preparations for the National Liberation Front party congress, the Council of the Revolution met yesterday under the head of state brother Rabih Bitat. The preparatory commission for this congress has been set up and it includes 37 members representing the party, the government, the national army, the masses' organizations and the People's Assembly.

COMMITTEE SET UP TO PREPARE FLN CONGRESS

LD032154Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jan 79

[Summary] This evening in the presence of the Council of the Revolution and the deputy speaker, head of state Rabih Bitat installed the national committee in charge of preparing the FLN congress. The executive official in charge of the party apparatus spoke on this occasion: [begin recording]

I urge you to stand in silence for 1 minute in honor of our late President Boumediene, who respected the FLN. For 13 years political activity in our country has been characterized by steady efforts and continued work to build the bases of the national political life. Our late president worked to build up state institutions. The insistence of the political leadership on holding the FLN congress is another indication of its adherence to President Boumediene's path. [end recording]

Then brother Rabih Bitat spoke: [begin recording]

The holding of the FLN congress is the last stone in the edifice of state institutions. Our late president attached great importance to this congress. It is important that the congress should be held and that we express our opinions with frankness. The Algerians have decided to continue the march in all fields. Our responsibility as a leadership is to secure the continuation of authority. The committee should work day and night to insure that the congress is held within the time stipulated in the national charter. [end recording]

FLN OFFICIAL PLEDGES CONTINUITY OF POLICY

LD032018Y Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers--"We will never accept that the loss of President Boumediene constitutes an excuse for changing or redirecting Algeria's policy toward liberation movements and struggles," the official in charge of coordinating party activities with the liberation movement accredited to Algiers stated at Boumaraf villa on Tuesday afternoon on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian revolution. During the meeting, which assembled delegations of the liberation movements on the occasion of this event, the FLN representative stressed that the solidarity shown by Algeria to all those struggling for freedom and all those suffering from economic and social injustice will remain as active as in the past.

The party representative drew the attention of those present to the unfounded allegations and maneuvers through which imperialism endeavors to make out that Algeria could revise its position in this field. "This is false. Our external policy will never change," he stated.

In conclusion, and before expressing the Algerian people's gratitude to the liberation movements which have associated themselves with its great sorrow, the official reaffirmed that "Algeria is and will remain forever the mecca of revolutionaries" and "the home of progress and liberty."

EXILED MINISTER: ALGERIAN LAW 'ADEQUATE' FOR DEMOCRATIZATION

LD031245Y Paris LE MATIN in French 29 Dec 78 p 11 LD

[Christian Casteran interview with former Algerian minister Bachir Boumaza: "Algerian Institutions Allow Democratic Debate"--date and place not specified]

[Text] Bachir Boumaza was formerly labor minister and then economy minister under Ahmed Ben Bella and was one of the few civilians to sit on the Council of the Revolution after 19 June 1965. He was information minister in Houari Boumediene's government but decided to resign. "I believed that the regime could be reformed from within. Unfortunately I very quickly realized that that was quite impossible," he now explains in exile. However he still has many contacts with current Algerian leaders.

Quoting Churchill's famous comment on democracy, he stated that Algeria's present institutions "constitute the worst possible system, but no better institutions are possible under present circumstances." "When the time comes, all experiments which have been tried since independence will have to be reviewed in order to make an honest and dispassionate assessment. Although criticism of the Boumediene regime is a pressing need, it could easily turn into a settlement of accounts in the present psychological context. That must be avoided at all costs. Everything will ultimately be perfected provided the essential point is tackled: the search for a broad patriotic and revolutionary consensus.

"An examination of the successive crises which the country has undergone since independence shows that they have all been concerned with the exercise of power and almost never with fundamental options or economic and social choices. That is because armed democracy, supported by the blood of Algeria's children, has failed to turn into political democracy. Democracy has been confiscated. That is why it is now the fundamental demand."

When pressed for an evaluation of Boumediene's achievements, Bachir Boumaza summed up his thoughts as follows:

"Opponents of President Boumediene and his regime are fond of recalling the late Kaid Ahmed's statements when he was National Liberation Front [FLN] executive secretary and Boumediene's leading collaborator: "On 19 June 1965, Algeria was on the edge of an abyss; since then it has taken a great step forward...." It is unfair to say that Boumediene's regime plunged the country into an abyss. However, the policy statements made by the regime and its advocates fail to convince us that the system inaugurated on 19 June has led Algeria to the heights of progress and emancipation. Here as elsewhere, exaggeration is the enemy of truth."

Dialog and Tolerance

Condemning the use of violence (he published a communique to that effect after the discovery of a consignment of weapons off the Algerian coast), Bachir Boumaza is still convinced, as he reiterated in that communique, that "every time somebody tries to use force to impose his ideas, he simply delays democratic confrontation, dialog and tolerance." However, the former minister is still anxious: "I confess that I fear a civil war."

Asked whether his gamble on democratization is likely to be lost if the eight remaining members of the Council of the Revolution refuse to reexamine the de facto power they have just inherited, Bachir Boumaza replied: "In the short term at least, that is a risk worth taking. In the medium term, however, there is no doubt that if that team failed to learn from its experience of power under Boumediene's leadership, its de facto power would become untenable.

"At all events, that team must first examine its conscience and assume its responsibilities as far as the present is concerned, but also in the historical perspective. Either the present team, united or divided, will cling jealously to the debris of its present power, with an obvious outcome, or it will abandon its narrow and sectarian concept of power and prove able, as much by patriotic reflex as by the political lucidity of which I know it is capable, to save national unity and avert the dangers threatening independence and territorial integrity.

"It is not only fundamental options which are threatened in this sudden void. Like Boumediene, Algeria is a sick man arousing various temptations from within and without--a dying man whose ffects are being ogled by many...."

Autocracy

In Bachir Boumaza's view the time has come for national reconciliation on the basis of two essential ideas:

"First, to put the notion of democracy into effect and hence make it credible in the people's eyes. The starting point should be the way in which democracy is exercised in party and state leadership bodies. What is the point of stressing the importance of 'democratizing' institutions at commune level if it is virtually nonexistent at the top, where the main decisionmaking power lies?

"The 19 June 1965 change was supposed to be a reaction against the excessive personalization of the previous government. Comparison of the institutional texts and leadership methods of the two periods clearly shows that, far from being a "revolutionary collective," the last regime eventually began to look like a real autocracy.

"Although the national charter (adopted in 1976) forms a valuable framework which could be enriched, a reading of the constitution shows that there is a wide gap between the first text and the basic law. While there is no alternative to socialism in Algeria, if it is to be credible it must be practiced, like democracy, at the top too.

"That is why reference to the national charter should also produce a revision of the constitution while consolidating socialist achievements, and not simply be a convenient official means of legalizing the de facto power."

Ultimately Bachir Boumaza is simply demanding that the national charter and the Algerian revolution's basic texts be respected:

"Those texts in their present form are adequate to provide a framework for democratic debate between all Algerians whether they are in power or in exile.

"It must be forcefully stressed--and this applies to both sides--that democracy is not just texts: It is a way of behaving which above all implies tolerant dialog and a high sense of compromise. Ultimately the democratic choice means that each must try to reach a compromise rather than try to eliminate the other."

"Now, the national charter reads: 'Pursuing the task of political clarification and ideological progress which has been developing for more than 20 years through the 1 November 1954 appeal, the Soummam platform of 1956, the 1962 Tripoli program, the 1964 Algiers charter and the 19 June proclamation, the national charter will without doubt make a new contribution to the task of completely emancipating the Algerian people, whose deep aspirations and determined will it expresses.'

"Surely that is an adequate platform on which to unite all those sincerely trying to achieve national reconciliation?"

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN APPOINTS MINISTER FOR SAHARAN AFFAIRS

LD031356Y Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Marrakech, Jan 3 (MAP)--King Hassan of Morocco received here Tuesday Khali Hanna Ould Rachid, whom the sovereign appointed secretary of state concerning Moroccan Sahara affairs. The king then appointed thirteen governors to provinces all of equal importance, urging the governors to assure security, defend the rights of the citizens and to work for the defense of our territorial integrity.

Crown Prince Mohamed, Ahmed Osman the Moroccan prime minister and several members of government were present.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI MEETS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ

JN031527Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan--President Numayri today received U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz. The meeting was attended by Dr Francis Deng, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum. The discussion dealt with the situation in Africa in general, and the situation in the Horn of Africa and in the south of the continent in particular. President Numayri briefed Mr Stephen Solarz on the OAU's activities regarding African issues.

Mr Stephen Solarz met this morning with Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and minister of foreign affairs. They reviewed African issues and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

The U.S. congressman will leave Khartoum for Ethiopia tomorrow as part of a tour of several African states which includes Namibia, Zambia, Angola and Zaire.

Vice President Receives Solarz

JN041034Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1000 GMT 4 Jan 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 4 (SUNA)--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice-president and foreign minister, received yesterday U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz (D-New York), who is visiting Sudan in an African tour including Angola, Zaire and Namibia.

The meeting, attended by Mr. Donald Begus, U.S.A. ambassador here, discussed bilateral relations and reviewed the current African situation.

Solarz also reviewed with President Numayri yesterday the situation in both Horn of Africa and southern Africa.

NAVAL ACTION TAKEN AGAINST LEBANESE COASTAL AREAS

TA031953Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] At the beginning of the week naval units took action against terrorist targets along the Lebanese coast. Our military correspondent reports that on Sunday afternoon naval vessels shelled terrorist targets and concentrations in the Tyre region. This came after reports about groups of terrorists organizing to carry out strikes against Israel.

JERUSALEM: DETAILS ON REOPENING OF TALKS UNKNOWN

TA031909Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Jerusalem does not know when the negotiations with Egypt will be resumed or on what level the talks will be conducted, even though an Israeli diplomat in Washington this evening told a UP correspondent that the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations will be resumed by the middle of this month in Washington and that the heads of the delegations will probably be Moshe Dayan and Mustafa Khalil.

After a long session of the Egyptian Cabinet, Khalil said tonight that his country is prepared to resume the peace efforts but, according to him, the responsibility to get the two parties together rests with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

EGYPTIAN CABINET DECISION NO SURPRISE; U.S. INITIATIVE EXPECTED

TA040914Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 79 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Political observers said last night that the Egyptian Government's decision was expected and presented no surprise. The decision, they said, "did not close the door," and favors continuing the negotiations. It includes a repetition of elements important for the Egyptian Cabinet, similar to the Israeli Cabinet's decision which also repeated the elements important for Israel. The two cabinets, the observers summed up, want the talks to continue and have even determined their opening positions for these talks.

Last night official elements in Jerusalem were not prepared to comment on the Egyptian Government's decision. They said that they would first like to review the authorized version of the decision.

Jerusalem expects the United States to initiate the next move soon. The evaluation is that the next move in the contacts will be decided on in a week. So far, the United States has neither commented on the cabinet's decision on Sunday nor on the Egyptian Cabinet's decision yesterday. According to observers, this stems to a certain extent from the new year's celebrations and demonstrates a well-balanced and a very cautious U.S. approach. Official elements in Jerusalem said yesterday in reply to a question that they did not know anything about a report emanating from Jerusalem that the talks between Israel and Egypt would resume in the U.S. capital and will be conducted by Dayan and Khalil in the middle of the month.

JERUSALEM: BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS COUP ATTEMPT IN SYRIA

LD032309Y Jerusalem International Service in English 2230 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] The Christian radio station in Beirut claims that there has been a coup attempt in Syria. It was led by the chief of staff, General Shihabi. No other source has confirmed this report.

Meanwhile, Syria's defense minister, Mustafa Talas, has arrived in Moscow. According to the Arab press, reports are that he will conclude an arms deal with the Soviet Union.

MINISTRY TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TO SAMARIA SETTLEMENTS

TA031237Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The Finance Ministry has allocated 76 million Israeli pounds for the purpose of fleshing out three Samaria settlements: Hares, Qarney Shomron and Giv'on. The Finance Ministry will provide an additional 203 million Israeli pounds for building in these settlements. The finance minister today asked the Knesset Finance Committee to approve the transfer of the sum designated for fleshing out from the budgetary reserve of the Housing Ministry. He explained that a part of the sum will be taken from budgets originally intended to be used for building in the Yamit District settlements. Building there has stopped.

The finance committee decided to postpone discussion to one of its coming meetings after it receives further explanations from the finance and agriculture ministries. This was done at the request of Knesset members Dani Rosolio and Naftali Feder from the Alinement.

Housing and Construction Minister Gid'on Pat, explained to our corresoondent Yosi Melman that the sums the committee was asked to endorse are to be used for building 570 housing units in three Samaria settlements.

MAYORS OF SAMARIA TOWNS SEEK PERMITS TO GO TO ALGERIA

TA040636Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The military government in the territories is about to permit several mayors of small towns in Samaria to depart for Algeria to extend condolences on the death of Houari Boumediene. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari says that after the permit is issued to mayors of the small towns, several mayors of the larger cities will make a similar request.

HEBRON MILITARY GOVERNOR DISCUSSES MAKHPELLA INCIDENT

TA032022Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] The military governor of Hebron has spoken with religious leaders in the town over the last few days in an attempt to prevent a renewal of the incidents at the Makhpella Cave. Correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the director of religious antiquities in Hebron, (Mithed Tahabuv), said that only firm action be the military government against the inhabitants of Qiryat Arba' will calm the situation. He emphasized that the guiding principle ought to be that the Makhpella Cave is first and foremost a mosque and that Jews should be permitted to visit it, but not to pray. The military governor did not put forward to the director of the religious antiquities the proposal by Rabbi Levinger that Jews should be permitted to pray throughout the cave on Saturdays when the Muslims are not there.

COMPONENTS OF POSSIBLE CABINET CRISIS ANALYZED

TA031248Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Jan 79 p 7 TA

[Dani'el Bloch commentary]

[Text] While these lines are being written, it seems that the danger of a coalition crisis due to a theater performance on Friday in Tel Aviv is not that great. Tel Aviv Mayor Shelomo Lahat intends to retract his decision to allow the Cameri Theater to hold performances on Friday nights. I am not sure whether Lahat's repentence stems from his concern for the integrity of the cabinet or from the feeling that his stand on that issue is not assured a majority on the Tel Aviv Municipal Council. It is doubtful whether the mayor of Tel Aviv chose the proper timing and subject for the struggle about cultural activities in his city on Fridays. After considerable efforts that had been systematic but quiet, the range of cultural activities on Sabbaths in Tel Aviv has increased in recent years: culture clubs such as "Zavta," movie performances, activities at the Tel Aviv museum on Saturday mornings, and so forth. All this happened gradually and without clamorous publicity.

This time, however, the issue was accompanied by a noisy publicity campaign, and at a time when MAFDAL's dissatisfaction about the partnership with the Likud is growing on both state and municipal levels. Just as the MAFDAL toppled the Rabin cabinet and the Alinement rule over the issue of a would-be Sabbath desecration, so there are now people in the MAFDAL who would prefer to topple this cabinet, not over a political issue--which the public might interpret as undermining the prospects for peace--but over a marginal issue, such as theater performances in Tel Aviv on Friday night. The MAFDAL elements who would like to see the cabinet dissolved, know that they have few prospects of precipitating a cabinet crisis on the basis of filling vacant ministry portfolios. It is doubted whether the three MAFDAL ministers are ready to abandon their influential positions only because Yehuda Ben-Me'ir failed in his hope to become a minister or, at least, deputy foreign minister.

The issue of filling the vacant cabinet portfolios contributed considerably toward reducing the ability of this cabinet to function inside the Likud, as well as in the relationship with MAFDAL. The development of events indicates a deficiency in the ruling capabilities of Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Rather than immediately implementing his original proposal 2 months ago, Begin succumbed to the procrastination tactics which Minister Yizhaq Moda'i initiated purely for internal partisan reasons. After the procrastination started due to marginal, almost foolish reasons, the appetite of the various political parties, notably of the MAFDAL, was roused and things became more complicated from day to day.

In principle, Prime Minister Menahem Begin should insist on his right, which is reserved to every premier in a parliamentary-cabinet-regime and which was also accepted by all Labor Party cabinets, that it is the prime minister who distributes the portfolios and that he is authorized to change portfolios among cabinet members. This authority is not taken from him under the existing constitutional circumstances. The only authority he lacks is the right to dismiss a minister, unless the minister or his faction failed to vote with the cabinet in the Knesset. It appears that the prime minister is not insisting firmly enough on the implementation of his status and his prerogatives and hence the erosion of the prime minister and of his cabinet in the eyes of the public.

In many respects the MAFDAL's demand for a cut in the cabinet representation of the Democratic Movement is proper. The people of Israel will also come to no real harm if Dr Yisra'el Katz no longer officiates as minister of labor and of social betterment. [paragraph continues]

The matter, however, is impractical: the prime minister cannot dismiss a cabinet member and if he tried to do so, the entire Democratic Movement would leave the cabinet. In the present political situation the prime minister may sooner rely on that movement's support in the cabinet, the coalition and in the Knesset than on the support of MAFDAL. It is clear that MAFDAL's alternative demand for an additional cabinet minister is impossible, as in that case Begin would have to add ministers to the Likud too and, as is no secret, the number of candidates is none too small.

The only possible indemnification for the MAFDAL would be the appointment of deputy ministers. On this issue there is also dissent and opposition. If the MAFDAL ministers wish to appoint deputy ministers in their own offices, no one can object, but the MAFDAL demand is for deputy ministers in offices belonging to other parties and according to the following scale of priorities: labor and social betterment, agriculture and housing. But here the counter-claim is being heard that the MAFDAL ministers firmly opposed the appointment of deputy ministers from other parties in their ministries. With the inception of the cabinet it had been agreed that MK Avraham Katz, of the liberals, should be deputy education minister, but the appointment fell through. By the same token, Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg prevented the appointment of MK Ehud Olmart as deputy interior minister for the Department of Police. Now other ministers are opposing the appointment of MAFDAL deputy ministers to their offices. It is estimated that the prime minister will persuade his deputy, Yiga'el Yadin, and Minister Katz to agree to the appointment of MK Sara Stern-Qatan to the post of deputy minister in the Ministry of Labor and Social Betterment. Should the MAFDAL demand more than that, the prime minister would be barely able to accomodate it. There are elements in the Likud which do not fear a crisis involving the MAFDAL; they estimate that if it leaves the cabinet, it could be replaced by SHAY. However, political observers believe that the MAFDAL would not incur a cabinet crisis against such a background.

A senior cabinet member, not of the Liberal Party, said this week that if the prime minister had authority to dismiss ministers, he would prevail on him to dismiss Minister Yizhaq Moda'i from the cabinet for his behavior contradicting every concept of collective responsibility and undermining the cabinet's authority in the public. As for Moda'i's activity against the budget, that conerns the prime minister and the finance minister. However, his attack against the MAPAI treasury officials is something that deserves reaction, even after the prime minister and the finance minister took exception to it. Anyone who is familiar with the facts knows that not a single treasury official has ever solicited a conflict between the finance minister and Minister Moda'i. If the energy minister has any complaints at all, they should be directed solely at Simha Ehrlich and his deputy, Yehezq'el Flomin.

If Moda'i wishes to drop a hint to Liberal Party functionaries who failed to get senior appointments at the treasury, one should ask him why he failed to appoint people from his party to senior posts in his office, particularly as the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure was a new office, unburdened with a MAPAI staff that could not be budged. It should also be pointed out that MAPAI ministers a long time ago ceased to appoint officials at the treasury and in other places according to their party affiliation, but only according to their qualifications. The late Pinhas Sapir did not ask a single official about his party affiliation; among his closest aides were no small number of nonpartisans or supporters of other parties. In one instance he had been told that one of his aides had been active in the student association elections against the Labor Party student cell, and Sapir refused to interfere. Mr Moda'i should also be reminded that the very man on whose claims he based his struggle against the treasury had also been appointed to his post during the rule of MAPAI.

TEHRAN CARRIES REPORT ON BAKHTIAR PRESS CONFERENCE

LD032053Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] At 1700 today Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar took part in a press, radio and television conference in his home. Representatives of nearly all the important world news agencies, reporters from domestic and foreign newspapers and representatives of foreign radio stations and television channels resident in Iran participated in this conference.

The two Majlises--the National Consultative Assembly and the Senate--have given a positive consultative opinion on the prime ministership of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar and the setting up of a civilian cabinet, and Dr Bakhtiar was replying to questions put to him by correspondents.

Since the issues raised at this conference have not yet been accurately transcribed from tape recordings, we have requested our colleague, Mr Turaj Farazmand, to repeat to us the notes which he took this afternoon at this conference. Mr Farazmand, please go ahead:

[Farazmand] I would like to say that this press conference was very crowded, that is, the number of correspondents present was very great, and no loudspeakers had been installed in the hall. I took most of my notes in French, and some of the questions were also in German, English and Persian. I was merely taking notes since I could not accurately hear Dr Bakhtiar's voice, and I could not see him behind the rostrum. I shall now bring to your attention these notes, some of which have been translated and some of which I will translate here and now, and I apologize in advance should I happen to stutter or should there be any difficulty from the standpoint of delivery and also should it not be accurate, since we will later accurately transcribe the conference and translate the words accurately. What I have here are mere generalities which have been taken down as notes to be conveyed to you.

Before starting the press conference, Dr Bakhtiar said: I have already stated the basic guidelines of the policy and program of the government and the manner of my thinking in the radio and television speech which I made the night before last, and of course I will put forward other issues during the speech I will make when introducing the government to the Majlis. I will undertake commitments and I will state my conclusions on this crisis. And now I ask that reporters and press personalities who have come here from various countries do not distort what I say, do not portray my thoughts in a different form and do not misquote me. For instance, what I said about Dr Sanjabi, my friend and comrade-in-arms, with whom I have struggled side by side, was completely at variance with what was reflected in news carried by agencies.

Then one of the correspondents began the questions by asking: Mr Prime Minister, when will you set up your government?

Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar replied: I am still not prime minister, since the shahanshah's command has not yet been communicated to me and I have not been introduced to parliament, although I hope to be able to introduce myself within 3 days.

One of the correspondents asked: Will the shahanshah leave Iran?

Mr Shahpur Bakhtiar said: This is another one of the questions to which I was referring and where agencies have portrayed the issue in a completely different light. I have never said that the shahanshah will leave Iran. His imperial majesty himself has expressed the desire to leave the country for a period for a rest and holiday whenever he deemed it appropriate, and he expressed his will to that effect. Newsmen portrayed this issue in a different way.

Another correspondent asked about the attitude adopted toward the perpetrators of corruption and toward those people who are being detained.

Dr Bakhtiar said: We have spent a period of 25 years with administrative and organizational corruption, and I believe that severe punishment should be considered with regard to those who have in this period trampled underfoot the laws and squandered public funds.

One of the correspondents asked for his opinion of the opposition.

Dr Bakhtiar replied: Only a government relying on democratic laws could have an opposition, and dictators never have an opposition; or if they do, they pretend that they do not. I believe that in order to form a democratic government one should enter into discussions with the opposition, but one cannot always persuade everyone.

He was asked about the future government's relations with their eminences the knowledgeable ulema.

Dr Bakhtiar said: I harbor profound respect for all the ayatollahs and Ayatollah Khomeyni and Ayatollah Shari'at Madari. I have deep religious beliefs which no one can doubt.

As regards the oil policy of the coming government, he was asked: Will you be exporting oil? And will you sell oil to Israel and South Africa or not?

Dr Bakhtiar said: As regards the export of oil, I should say that we will definitely export it. But as for the sale of oil to Israel and South Africa, we should revise our past policy since Israel is in a state of war with our brother coreligionists, the Arabs, and this issue endangers peace in the region--peace in the Near East and world peace. As for South Africa, too, I do not agree with their ideological attitude with regard to racial supremacy.

A question was asked about the army, and he was asked: How will your relations be with the army?

Dr Bakhtiar said: The army is not separate from the nation and forms part of the nation. The Iranian nation wears two uniforms: military and civilian. The army is for the defense of Iran's borders and for the preservation of our independence and territorial integrity--and when these two are endangered the army is of vital importance. I hope that I will have the best of relations with the army.

He was asked about a regency council. Dr Bakhtiar said that such an issue is not currently under discussion, and in accordance with the realm's law whenever his imperial majesty the shahanshah leaves the country temporarily a regency council has to be set up.

Another correspondent asked: Will you dissolve the State Organization for Intelligence and Security?

Dr Bakhtiar said: To this day I do not know a single country which has no police force. But I should also say that it is possible that the State Organization for Intelligence and Security may be divided, and that the section concerned with obtaining intelligence necessary for the country's security will remain.

A correspondent asked: Can you announce to us the names of the members of the government?

Dr Bakhtiar said: Even if I had the list of these names I would certainly not show it to you.

One of the correspondents, referring to the recent disturbances, asked: What attitude would you adopt vis-a-vis the course of these events?

Dr Bakhtiar said: In my opinion the roots of these disturbances should be sought, and I will endeavor to cut these roots, since, if you believe in the sequence of cause and effect, when the causes of this dissatisfaction are removed the disturbances, too, which constitute the effect of the dissatisfaction, will certainly be removed. Should a third government, which has not been tainted with corruption, come to power, I am certain that these disturbances will subside. But of course, we should not expect miracles.

Another correspondent asked: Talk has been heard recently about constant Soviet Interference in Iran. What is your policy in this respect?

Dr Bakhtiar said: Our policy is a national policy. Our policy is a policy of national independence. Both in the Iran Party, in which I have the honor of being a member, and in the National Front we have always believed that no government, under any pretext, has the right to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. We will not tolerate any foreign government's interference in the affairs of our country. Such interference, no matter from what direction it may come, is the same to us.

One of the correspondents asked: Will you stay in the CENTO pact?

Dr Bakhtiar said: We are in the CENTO pact, but I should say that from the military viewpoint CENTO is dead.

Another correspondent asked: What will you do with the martial law administration?

Dr Bakhtiar said: I have mentioned this issue in my radio and television speech. Martial law should gradually be lifted, but in certain areas one ought to be circumspect. Of course, this will be carried out within several days or possibly several weeks, on the condition that in those areas where martial law administration exists the demonstrations should not be involved in shedding of blood.

Dr Bakhtiar was asked: Will you continue to purchase arms from the United States?

Dr Bakhtiar said: First of all, we do not have a lot of money with which to purchase arms. Second, a nation needs an army and inasmuch as it is necessary to equip this army, arms should be obtained. But, of course, we will not purchase weapons in excess of our capabilities and needs.

Mr Bakhtiar was then asked by one of the foreign correspondents about censorship and the future radio and television policy.

He said: The freedom of the press and, on the whole, freedom itself is a precious gift to us. We will lift censorship, and I hope that either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow all newspapers will be able to come out, without having police or censorship agents breathing down their necks. As for the future policies of radio and television, I should point out that even in one of the most democratic countries in Western Europe, namely France, and in principle in Europe's democratic countries, there is no such thing as absolute freedom for radio and television. However, we will try to move toward such freedom. I have spoken to officials of radio and television and to journalists; the constitution is perfectly clear in this case. I am thus asking the representatives of the press to resume their work, being assured of such legal precedence. However, my advice to them is not to distort the facts. As an example, I refer to the French paper LE MONDE, a totally objective paper which is neither communist, Gaullist nor attached to any (?political) party. I hope that our news publications will adopt such an objective approach in propagating ideas and concepts.

A correspondent asked about Persian Gulf security.

Mr Bakhtiar said: The Persian Gulf, on whose shores Iran and some Arab states are situated, is naturally important in view of the fact that very important resources are available in these countries. We attach importance to the security of the Persian Gulf. However, we will not be the gendarme of the Persian Gulf. We must defend our borders and country and we will apply the same policy to the Persian Gulf.

Another correspondent asked whether his eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni can return to Iran.

Dr Bakhtiar said: He is an Iranian and, as does any other Iranian, deserves respect. He can return to his country any time he desires.

He was asked whether any talks had taken place between them. Mr Bakhtiar said in reply: As you know, he is in Paris and I am in Tehran. Consequently, no such opportunity has yet arisen.

Another correspondent asked: Are you, like previous administrations, going to start looking up the law in order to put the corrupt on trial?

Dr Bakhtiar said: I believe that all those who have violated the law of the land and squandered the country's funds must be put on trial immediately in a national court. Such a court must decide their fate as soon as possible.

Another correspondent asked: What are you going to do about street demonstrations? Is it possible that such demonstrations might continue even after the formation of your government?

Dr Bakhtiar said: My first duty is to maintain the survival and unity of Iran, as well as to secure people's peace and the country's calm. To achieve these, I will do whatever I can by peaceful means. However, I will not tolerate the separation of one centimeter of this country. If there are people who in the name of Iran are taking part in demonstrations and causing agitation, then I warn them here and now that I shall crush them most forcefully.

Someone asked: In some towns security officials ordered their men to open fire. What is going to be done about them?

Dr Bakhtiar said: If an army officer follows orders, I do not believe anyone should take him to court. Tell me, was General von (?Richter) brought to trial in Nuremberg? However, should anyone commit murder or plunder, then it is obviously up to the courts to decide.

He was asked whether he would go to the southern parts of the country to settle the oil problem once he becomes prime minister.

Dr Bakhtiar said: I am planning to visit first the south and then Tabriz. These are the first two trips.

As for the policy on foreign investments in Iran, Dr Bakhtiar said: Under present circumstances, I have more urgent tasks; the decision on this issue will have to be postponed until the next few weeks. In any case, in order to resolve current problems I will be looking for solutions in line with the interests of the nation and the country.

Again he was asked about the opinion of the clergy concerning him and his government, to which Dr Bakhtiar said: Everyone knows I am not a corrupt person wishing to come to power. My request is to be given the minimum of time so that I may be able to say what I must say and do what I must do. This is a request not only meant for their eminences, but made to all the Iranian people. You ask me what happens if I am defeated, for one correspondent did ask this question. My answer is: I have entered the arena totally committed. I will try to win in this critical time; for if I win, it is the country which wins; if I lose, then I too shall vanish. If a government, which has had no involvement in the past 25 years in causing the present situation and all of whose members are noble and patriots, is defeated, then I will consider it a national defeat.

In response to the question of whether he would meet with a military coup d'etat, Dr Bakhtiar said: Iran is not a land of the coup d'etat, like some South American countries. However, there is always the possibility of a military coup d'etat. I will try to avoid this.

He was then asked about the foreigners in Iran and those leaving the country.

Dr Bakhtiar said: The Iranian are not a people with a xenophobic bias. I am sorry to see those who are important to the Iranian economy from a technical viewpoint leaving their jobs. Once order is restored, I will invite them to return to Iran, if they wish. However, as far as those whose presence in Iran is not necessary and who wish to remain here against our wishes are concerned, I will ask them to leave.

A correspondent asked: What is your view of such opponents as Dr Sanjabi?

Dr Bakhtiar said: I do not consider Dr Sanjabi an opponent, as you do.

With regard to agriculture, Dr Bakhtiar explained: Ten years ago, we used to export agricultural produce. Now we are importing more than $4 billion worth of agricultural produce. I hope to be able to rectify our chaotic agricultural situation with the next 3-4 years.

Dr Bakhtiar was then asked about Awqaf and the future of this organization.

Dr Bakhtiar said: I am planning to create a management group for Awqaf, following consultations with their eminences and the ulema, thus completely divorcing the government from it, and perhaps it will operate as some sort of an accountant. I believe there is no need for an organization or ministry for Awqaf

He was asked whether the Tudeh Party of Iran will be freed.

Dr Bakhtiar said: In my radio and television speech, I gave an adequate explanation about political parties. I do not think there is anything wrong with individuals being leftists; they can be free. However, should they want to receive their orders from abroad, then never. I state quite openly that the parties which have no foreign dependence, which do not receive their orders from foreigners and which take no action in violation of the constitution and Islam are definitely free in Iran.

Dr Bakhtiar was asked: What is your own reaction to being expelled from the National Front?

Dr Bakhtiar replied: I am one of those who recoganized the National Front in this very same room where you are sitting and posing your questions, about this time last year. However, there comes a time in life when one must decide, one must remain selfless and sacrifice a great many things. Such a moment came for me last week; it was then that I made my decision in accordance with my country's interests. If I succeed in my endeavor, then the National Front will come to me and I will go to the National Front. If it is a question of the country's interests, then neither the National Front nor any other must sacrifice such interests for its political ideology.

This was a summary of Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar's press conference. I hope to be able to broadcast its accurate and correct translation in later bulletins, as our translators, like the rest of our colleagues, are on strike.

TEHRAN COMMENTATOR ON BAKHTIAR EFFORTS TO FORM GOVERNMENT

LD031302Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Turaj Farazmand commentary]

[Excerpts] In the present circumstances the situation in the country and the position of the government should be considered separately.

As for the position of the government, the matter is quite clear. General Azhari, who has submitted the resignation of his cabinet and whose resignation has been accepted, has himself been assigned to supervise government affairs until a new government is formed. With the resignation of the government General Azhari's cabinet ministers have in effect stepped aside and the affairs of the ministries are being handled by deputy ministers, that is, deputies the ministers concerned have selected. The duties of prime minister, too, owing to General Azhari's continued illness, are in effect being carried out by one of his deputies. So this is the position of the government at the moment.

As for the situation in the country, that is, the political aspect of it, listeners are aware that Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar has declared his readiness to assume the office of prime minister and his majesty has also agreed to it. Now, the two houses of parliament, in accordance with parliamentary tradition, are required to vote in favor or voice their agreement or, as you have heard in the news, give their opinion. Once they have given their opinion someone will be nominated as prime minister. It is probable that Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar had talks with leaders of parliamentary factions earlier. Whether this was done collectively or separately I do not know, but the probability is there nevertheless.

At any rate, today both the Majlis and the Senate declared a favorable vote, or, as they described it, their favorable opinion, for Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar's nomination as prime minister. This is not a part of the rules and regulations of the Majlis but, as it was said earlier, an old tradition which has prevailed in the past. This procedure was applied with regard to the late Qavam's cabinet, the Qavamossaltaneh cabinet. At the time, because the vote was divided equally, I believe the speaker--who was the late Tabatabi'i, if I recall correctly--also cast his vote. Thus Mr Qavam became prime minister. The same happened with regard to the cabinet of Dr Mossaddeq. In this case, too, the Majlis first expressed its consent--voted in favor--and he then formed his cabinet.

Following previous procedure, the chairmen of the two houses of parliament are expected, in my view, to be received in audience and to communicate the views of the parliamentary representatives to his majesty. The shahanshah will then summon the nominee and issue the firman appointing that person prime minister of Iran. Then there is no doubt that Dr. Shahpur Bakhtiar has studied this matter, made some selections, and exchanged views with leading political, economic and cultural figures, or with some of those who share his views. He might have made certain proposals. Such individuals will not become part of the future government if these proposals have been accepted, and we will soon become familiar with their faces, or perhaps we will know them already. By the same token, some of them may be unknown to us.

Once the list of the members of the cabinet, complete or incomplete, has been determined, the prime minister should first introduce the government to the Majlis and then to the Senate, and ask for a vote of confidence. It was more usual in the past for the prime minister, having received his firman, to first introduce his cabinet members to the shahanshah and then to the two houses of parliament. What will happen this time we do not know. The question with regard the formation of the government and the work of the government (?is not yet clear).

Usually the government should present its program when being introduced and seeking a vote of confidence. What the government's program is we do not know at present, but Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar's radio and television message, which has been broadcast several times on the radio and television, outlined the general features of the future government's program, or at least the personal views of the future prime minister.

Everyone is now waiting for Shahpur Bakhtiar to form his cabinet, and everything depends on whether he can form a cabinet of which each member is trusted and accepted by the Iranian people, or at least by the various social groups making up the Iranian people. Although he was personally involved in Iranian politics for 30 years, Shahpur Bakhtiar, because he spent 25 years in prison or, as he put it, preferred to be out of work rather than participate in any of the governments at the time, is not yet very familiar to many of our people. If he is able to form a government of which each member is a prominent personality in Iranian politics and supported by large groups, then he will have proven his ability, personality and courage--I particularly stress the word courage here--at his first step. It might be too early now to comment on the new cabinet, but there are signs that Shahpur Bakhtiar intends to form a cabinet that could be identified as a government of national unity, in the true sense of the word.

BAKHTIAR INTERVIEW CARRIED BY PARIS LE FIGARO

LD031539Y Paris LE FIGARO in French 2 Jan 79 p 3 LD

[Thierry Desjardins Tehran interview with Iranian Prime Minister-designate Shahpur Bakhtiar: "I am making a sacrifice to steer the country out of chaos"--date not specified]

[Text] Tehran--Shahpur Bakhtiar, the man whom the shah has asked to form a civilian government to save the situation in Iran, has just accepted a mission which is far from easy. An attempt to form a civilian cabinet at the present time with the shah against Ayatollah Khomeyni and against what remains of Karim Sanjabi's National Front is virtually impossible. But, as he said himself with a faint smile, "when De Gaulle boarded his small airplane for London in 1949 he was not sure of success either!"

I have just had a long meeting with him at his beautiful villa north of Tehran. He has no illusions but has now set a very precise timetable.

"I still need several days to form my government. It will of course be a social democratic government, and all its members will be completely honest and unassailable as far as corruption is concerned. For example, I will have General Jam (a former student at Saint-Cyr and husband of Princess Shams, the shah's sister) in the Defense Ministry. He is respected by everybody. Military censorship will be lifted and newspapers will be able to begin publishing before I announce my team."

As soon as the assembly has given me its confidence, his majesty will make a statement in which he will officially define the limits of his power under the terms of the constitution, which states that the king reigns but does not govern. The shah will then appoint a regency council and will be able to take a few weeks' vacation abroad. I hope that the shahbanu [the shah's wife] will not be appointed to chair that council, for religious reasons. It would shock people here.

If Karim Sanjabi, who has just taken the rather ridiculous step of expelling me from the National Front, accepts the post of regency council chairman, it is open to him. If not, we will find somebody else. And then we will try to put the country back on its feet."

[Question] But what will Khomeyni's attitude be?

[Answer] I am in touch with him, and I went to see the religious leaders in Qom, who listened to me with interest.

[Question] Are you optimistic?

[Answer] When a country is in a chaotic state, people must sacrifice themselves and try to do something. I am therefore making a sacrifice.

Shahpur Bakhtiar is right not to be optimistic. At the moment it is difficult to see how the shah could agree to limit his powers, how he could leave "for a vacation abroad" ("There is no question of my leaving" the king told confidants yesterday) and finally, most important of all, how this social democratic government could satisfy the crowd, incited to fanaticism by Ayatollah Khomeyni, and start the country moving again.

Marxist Literature on the Streets

National Front spokesman Salamatian told me recently: "Bakhtiar has no chance of succeeding. He will have to admit failure within 3 days. Nothing can be done in this country while the shah is here and until Khomeyni gives the go-ahead."

In any case, what is certain is that if the Bakhtiar operation fails--and it will soon be known whether it has failed or not--the only way left open to the shah following his unsuccessful initiatives with respect to Ali Amini, Karim Sanjabi and Gholam Hoseyn Sadiqi will be to appeal again to the army.

Now a new military government would probably be not the best solution. General Azhari had to resign as prime minister "for health reasons." This moderate man "could no longer take it." Therefore it seems that only General Oveysi, who is called "the butcher of Tehran" by his adversaries, remains as a possible prime minister, and when you see what the "hardline" army is now doing in Mashhad--in response, it is true, to the hanging of a certain number of SAVAK agents by a mob gone wild--you can only feel alarmed.

Especially since a military dictatorship would play into the hands of advocates of civil war (the day before yesterday, Molotov cocktails were seen on the streets of the capital for the first time) and the communists.

In any case, there can be no doubt that, since the communists have resurfaced, the "people's republic" slogan has begun to replace the "Islamic republic" slogan. For the past 3 days, Marxist literature has been on sale at low prices on Shah Reza Avenue. Lists of SAVAK agents together with their automobile registration numbers have been circulating in various places. But it is only the "Savakis" who blame the communists. And nobody else.

In Mashhad Tajiks, who probably came from Afghanistan and have mixed with local Tajiks, have attacked police stations and distributed arms among the people. And finally, oil workers who went on strike at Khomeyni's instigation are now refusing to obey the same Khomeyni who recently asked them to produce nonetheless a minimum of black gold necessary for local consumption.

This has prompted Mehdi Bazargan, sent by Khomeyni to the country's southern oilfields, to say: "They now obey the communists rather than the religious leaders. It is obvious that only a return to a certain measure of democracy could mollify all these extremists. However, poor Bakhtiar has no margin for maneuver on his tightrope."

164 PEOPLE RELEASED FROM MASHHAD PRISON

LD031620Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] On the obeyed command of his imperial majesty, 164 people convicted by military tribunals have been released from Mashhad prison. The question of pardoning and reprieving other convicts is under review so that requests for their pardon may be gradually made to the monarch.

NEW CHIEF OF SHAH'S STAFF APPOINTED

LD031602Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Text] On the obeyed command of his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr, supreme commander in chief, Gen 'Abbas Karim Qarabaghi, has been appointed chief of the supreme commander's staff. The appointment takes effect from today.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON OIL INDUSTRY DISPUTE IN AHVAZ

LD031326Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Negotiations between delegations sent to Ahvaz and NIOC workers and staff continue. Lieutenant General Ja-farian, governor general of Khuzestan, in announcing this in an interview with our correspondent in Ahvaz, said: Although some of the demands of the NIOC workers have been met, the negotiations being conducted by the delegations sent to the area on the question of oil output have not yet achieved any results. These negotiations are continuing in order that a result be reached.

We now draw your attention to the Khuzestan governor general's interview with our colleague Bahman Shahrokhzadeh: [begin recording]

[Shahrokhzadeh] I would like to ask you to explain what is happening with regard to the oil situation in general and about the extent to which this problem has been solved.

[Ja'farian] With regard to the oil industry dispute, the gentlemen's demands were in three parts. One concerned the withdrawal from all the oil regions of troops who had been sent there merely for the protection of oil industry personnel and the release of detained oil workers. After receiving authorization from the capital, I, in my capacity as governor general of Khuzestan, immediately contacted the military governors of Ahvaz and Abadan and court officials. Within a few hours, the demand for the release of detainees had been met.

Engineer Khatibi and Dr Sharifi [NIOC officials] also arrived in Ahvaz a few days ago and held negotiations with those involved so that domestic needs for oil products could be met. Following that, Engineer Mehdi Bazargan [a National Front leader] and those accompanying him also arrived in Ahvaz. They are busy now conducting negotiations. So far there have not been any positive results.

Everyone hopes that by today or tomorrow this critical problem, on which the lives and living standards of thousands of our compatiots depend, will be resolved. [end recording]

COMMITTEE SAYS NORMAL REFINING 'LIKELY TO RESUME SHORTLY'

TA041053Y Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Jan 4 (AFP)--Normal refining at a rate of 600,000 barrels a day is likely to resume shortly in Iran, the committee negotiating with strikers said today.

It also said that repairs would begin to the oil pipeline from Ahvaz, Khuzestan, to Tehran (a distance of 1000 km, 600 miles), which has been damaged at three places. Stocks from Ahvaz could thus be sent to the capital.

The committee further said that a delegation would leave for the main terminal of Kharg Island to ensure that no oil is exported, in accordance with one of the strikers' demands.

TEHRAN REPORTS SCATTERED DEMONSTRATIONS, INCIDENTS 3 JAN

LD031348Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 79 LD

[Excerpt] Following demonstrations in Tehran and the provinces in the past few days, Tehran and several other parts of the country today witnessed further demonstrations. So far we have not received any reports of clashes between security forces and demonstrators.

Following the relative calm of previous nights, there were scattered demonstrations in Tehran last night. A group of people, making use of the power blackout, set fire to refuse collected in the streets and to old tires and shouted slogans. Our correspondents report that the sound of shots could be heard in various parts of Tehran well into the night, but so far we have had no reports of clashes.

According to our correspondents' reports from other parts of the country, a group of demonstrators staged a march in Yazd and following a visit to educators who have taken sanctuary in the Yazd Education and Training Department, the demonstrators dispersed. Another group staged a march in Shabestar rural district and the surrounding villages. A number of men of religion made speeches about the country's present situation in Yazd's main square.

In Marageheh, Haji Kord and Taleb Khan thousands of youngsters below the age of 12 staged a peaceful march. Demonstrators from villages around Hasharud staged a march in the town of Azaran.

There were also scattered demonstrations in Tabriz this morning. A group of people staged a march in Azhedan. After that they gathered at the Jame' Mosque, and because of conflicting views among the demonstrators, these demonstrators were conducted peacefully [as heard] and they dispersed.

Our correspondents' reports from the provinces indicate that while most shops and government and private offices were closed again today, most of the marches were peaceful and there were no clashes.

On the other hand, a report from Mashhad says that at 2300 last night a number of saboteurs broke into the house of retired Warrant Officer Gholam Reza Hasanzadeh in Mashhad and after wounding him set him on fire.

In Behbehan, a 16-year-old youth was killed when an explosive device he had intended to throw at security forces blew up in his own hand.

Demonstrations After Curfew

TA031945Y Paris AFP in English 1937 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, 3 Jan (AFP)--Demonstrations erupted tonight after curfew in several sections of the Iranian capital, plunged into total darkness by strikes and energy shortages.

Shortly after the imposition of the nightly 9 p.m. curfew, anti-government demonstrators hiding behind windows broke into shouts of "Allah is great," "Death to the shah" and "Bakhtiar, valet without power," referring to premier-designate Shahpur Bakhtiar.

AFP: OPPOSITION LEADERS CALL FOR DAY OF MOURNING

TA041231Y Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 4 Jan 79 TA

[Excerpt] Tehran, Jan 4 (AFP)--Moslem and political opposition leaders called today for a day of national mourning on Sunday to protest against what they termed "massacres" throughout Iran last week.

Business in Tehran, meanwhile, remained crippled by strikes, but the city was calm. Troops wielding sub-machineguns guarded key intersections.

Fire fighters in the capital announced they were going on strike for an indefinite period to dispel any notion that they were backing the shah and the army.

A fire brigades spokesman said his colleagues had done nothing but their normal duty during recent anti-shah demonstrations, but doubts remained in the eyes of some Iranians on their sympathies.

KHOMEYNI URGES FOOD, OIL PRODUCTION 'FOR DOMESTIC NEEDS'

TA031717Y Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 3 Jan 79 TA

[Text] Paris, 3 Jan (AFP)--The exiled Iranian religious opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni today urged Iranians to ensure food and oil production sufficient for domestic needs.

In a communique issued here, Ayatollah Khomeyni called on religious leaders and preachers to tell farmers to "work energetically" to ensure domestic food production but to "avoid growing products which the government exports."

The ayatollah asked trades people not to raise prices but to reduce them "to help their fellow citizens in their resistance" to the current government. He said he had sent a mission to look into the oil production situation in Iran, and "I gave the order to pursue oil exploitation to meet the country's needs."

KYODO: KHOMEYNI ASKS INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOR VISA

OW040652Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0621 GMT 4 Jan 79 OW

[Excerpts] New Delhi, 4 Jan (KYODO)--Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian religious leader and political foe of the shah of Iran, has requested the Indian Government to grant him a visa for use on and after January 12. Khomeyni's present French visa expires on January 11 and indications suggest that the French Government may not extend it.

A government spokesman refused to comment on the visa request.

PARIS: AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI ON 'ISLAMIC' GOVERNMENT

LD031555Y Paris LE MATIN in French 30-31 Dec 78 p 7 LD

[Pierre Savigny report: "We Will Sell Oil to All Friendly Peoples"]

[Text] Ayatollah Montazeri spent 5 years in the shah's prisons. He was recently released and came to Paris to meet with Ayatollah Khomeyni whom he represents, with other people, in the holy city of Qom, Iran's religious capital. He answered questions put to him by LE MATIN on the policy an "Islamic" government would pursue. His interpretation of the future Islamic republic for which the Iranian Shi'ites are fighting is quite flexible. "Any government which assumes power and fights for Islam, justice and freedom will be accepted and obeyed by all the people," he says.

Montazeri himself was a witness to and victim of torture used by the Iranian political police for many years.

"I can tell you that when I was in prison," he explains, "all kinds of torture were being used. People were whipped and put in irons with their hands tied behind their back and 20-30 kg weights hung at the end of the chains. Policemen used to burn people's bodies with electric appliances. And, to make prisoners deaf and blind, they slapped their faces and poked fingers into their eyes. They damaged my hearing and kept me in chains for 4-5 months. They whipped me and I had wounds which bled for 5 months. All these atrocities were committed by SAVAK (political police), and many of my countrymen and women died."

With regard to the fate of foreigners under an Islamic government, the ayatollah was anxious to send a "message to the French people": "The Iranian people feel no animosity toward your people. They hold out a friendly hand to all peoples and ask them to urge their governments not to ignore the Iranian people's movement. We firmly believe that the people's revolutionary movement will win, since it has its roots in the heart of the nation.

"If other governments do not ignore this movement, we will establish economic and political relations based on understanding with all peoples once the Iranian Muslim people achieve victory. If other peoples and their governments respect the Iranian people's rights, the Iranian people will respect theirs. And the best possible relations will be established. Oil is not intended to stay below ground in Iran, and we will sell it to all friendly peoples."

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION EXPANSION AGREEMENT SIGNED

For a report of the text of the agreement on expansion of economic cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union carried by Kabul in English to South Asia at 1400 GMT on 10 December 1978, see the South Asia section of the 3 January USSR DAILY REPORT.

BANGLADESH

ZIA REITERATES MARTIAL LAW WILL BE LIFTED

BK030330Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 3 Jan 79 BK

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has declared that martial law will be lifted in the first week of the first session of parliament, which will meet within a month of the general elections to be held on the 12th of next month. President Zia, who is also the chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was addressing a mammoth public meeting at Palton Maidan yesterday. The meeting was organized by the Dacca city unit of the party.

The president said he inherited martial law and did not impose it, but yet he is lifting it in phases. He said in compliance with the demands of various political parties, the martial law provisions relating to political activities have already been suspended. President Zia said his government has adopted a very liberal policy in respect of political prisoners, and about 10,000 of them were released in the past few months in pursuance of this policy. Many of these prisoners, he said, were arrested before the 1975 political changeover. He said steps are also being taken to give due status to political detenus. Warrants of arrest against political elements are being gradually relaxed.

The president appealed to the people to participate in the coming polls wholeheartedly to help restore democracy in the country. He said his government is taking all possible steps to redeem its pledge to restore democracy. The elections are the only means to establish democracy in the country and since there is not any alternative to it, they must participate in it. President Zia said the forthcoming elections are of crucial importance to the nation. The people shall have to decide whether they want peace and stability or the politics of destruction, chaos and confusion. They will have to choose between restoration of democracy and the politics of weapons that brought sorrow and sufferings, despair and frustration to the nation during the first 3 years after independence. President Zia also asked the people whether they stood for safeguarding the national freedom and sovereignty. The audience replied in the affirmative by raising slogans.

President Zia called upon the opposition parties to submit themselves to the verdict of the people since that is the essence of democracy. The president noted that the days of the politics of weapons and division are gone and are being replaced with the politics of unity, progress and prosperity. He said the peace-loving people of the country will not stand as mute spectators if any quarter try to frustrate democracy through violence and other illegal activities.

Giving a resume of the achievements of his government during the last 3 years, he said the situation in the country has definitely taken a turn for the better.

President Zia said one of the outstanding achievements of his government was the restoration of the people's rights, the freedom of speech, freedom of press and the right to religion. He said all people, regardless of caste and creed, are today at liberty to practice their respective religions without any fear.

The president observed that as a result of her independent and peaceful foreign policy, the country's prestige has been enhanced in the international community. He said the election of Bangladesh to the United Nations Security Council is eloquent testimony to the success of our foreign policy.

The vice president, Mr Justice Abdus Sattar, in his speech said President Zia during his 3 June election sought the people's approval for the presidential form of government in the country. The people, by giving an overwhelming support to him, gave a clear mandate in favor of his manifesto. He said those who talk of boycotting the elections are in fact trying the foil the democratic process initiated by President Zia.

The meeting was also addressed by the senior minister, Mr Mashiur Rahman; the minister for cooperatives, rural development and local government, Capt retired Abdul Halim Chowdhury; and the labor and industrial welfare minister, Shah Azizur Rahman. The meeting was presided over by the mayor of the Dacca municipal corporation, Mr Abul Hasnat.

PRESIDENT AMENDS PRESS PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE

BK030208Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 3 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance amending certain provisions of the Printing Presses and Publications Declaration and Registration Act, 1973, with a view to bringing it in consonance with the government's declared policy of introducing a truly democratic order in the country. The ordinance also aims at restoring all parliamentary rights of the people, including freedom of expression.

The ordinance will be called the Printing Presses and Publications Declaration and Registration Amendment Ordinance, 1979.

INDIA

PRIME MINISTER DESAI: NO 'TILT' IN FOREIGN POLICY

BK030341Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jan 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that the setting up of special courts to try emergency offenses is under the active consideration of the government. Taking part in a "Meet the Press" program in Trivandrum last night, Mr Morarji Desai said that this will depend on the passage of the proposed bill in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr Desai stated that there is no tilt toward any country in India's foreign policy. He said India does not want to get involved in any country's internal affairs. About the country's nuclear policy, the prime minister pointed out that it is very clear and we are not going to submit to any discrimination.

The prime minister denied that there is any move to topple governments in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. He also said that he has assured the Kerala government to look into the state's special problems and demands. Mr Desai reaffirmed that the unity of the Janata Party will be maintained. He said the prospects are good both for the party and the country.

The prime minister is leaving for Hyderabad today where he will inaugurate the 56th session of the Indian science congress.

ISI GIVES DESAI MESSAGE ON FAMILY PLANNING MONTH

BK011025Y Delhi ISI in English 0858 GMT 1 Jan 79 BK

[Text] In a message over All-India Radio and Doordarshan [TV] on December 30 Prime Minister Morarji Desai has appealed to the people to cooperate in carrying the message of family planning to every home in the country. Every literate person, he said, should not only take to the programme himself but should help in explaining its importance to others. As for doctors, they should help the people in family planning without any fear. The prime minister said that the coercive element in family planning had been removed and it was therefore all the more necessary that its importance should be explained to the people and their cooperation secured.

Following is the text of the prime minister's message:

I want to talk to you today on a very important matter affecting our development, our prosperity and happiness of every family. We have been making efforts to develop our country so that we are able to give employment to every person and to give a satisfactory living from that employment. But all our efforts are getting countered by the fast increasing population in our country.

Efforts that had been made 2 years ago, particularly during the emergency period, were full of coercion and compulsory. Vasectomy by force was resorted to in many cases. That has brought a reaction in the programme of family planning.

We have done away with the coercive part of family planning, but the work of family planning is one of most important works before us and that programme has the greatest importance, which can be seen from the celebration of January as Family Planning Month, so that in that month we make concentrated efforts to reach every home, every family and explain to them the benefits and the vital necessity of family planning.

It is also a very fortunate coincidence that this year, that is next year, is being observed as Children's Year and for children's future this is a very vital programme.

It is obvious to every person that if one lives beyond one's means, one can never be happy. And while we are attempting to make everybody as happy as he can be with as good an income as he can obtain, it is vitally necessary at present to achieve that the large vast numbers of poor people who are living in this country are enabled to see that they limit their families to two children, that is a family of four, at most five. It is more necessary for the poor to have this programme because they suffer the most as a result of the increasing population. There are always more children in poor families than in the prosperous families. This is the law of nature. And it is therefore that a poor family suffers immensely when the number of children goes on increasing. Their income is not only low but does not go on increasing quick enough with the growing family. And therefore the larger the number of children in the house, the greater the misery. The children cannot be looked after, cannot get the necessities of life and the parents also have to deprive themselves of even the bare necessities of food. This is what happens. And it becomes a vicious circle because then the family gets on growing.

If every family, every home gets this message and they are given the facts, I am quite sure they will understand it because it is to their own advantage that they should take to the programme of family planning, limiting children in the family to two. And there are measures which can be taken which can achieve these results. It is the business and duty of the government to see that these measures are availed of by the people. They are made available to them as they want them and we have got to convince them about their necessity of taking up those measures. I therefore appeal to every person who is literate, who understands this problem, who sees this problem, to take to this family planning programme himself or herself. But I would also appeal to him not to rest satisfied with that, but to help the country by explaining the necessity of this to every poor person or every neighbour and every other person whom he meets so that the message is carried to all homes. This is a task in which all have to cooperate if we are to have successful results in good time.

I would particularly appeal to the doctors who have been suffering from some fear, as I understand, on account of the coercion that had taken place and forcible measures that had been taken during the emergency days about which some inquiries are being made. I would appeal to them not to be afraid of helping the people, of assisting them in having family planning without any fear because this will be willingly accepted by the people. But it is they who have to give them the facility and they should also explain to them the advantage and necessity of taking to these measures. I hope and trust that all doctors all over, whether they are allopaths, whether they are ayurveds, whether they are homoeopaths or naturepaths, all of them will help in this national task.

NEPAL

PRC-BUILT COTTON TEXTILE MILL HANDED OVER TO GOVERNMENT

BK301542Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 30 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The People's Republic of China today formally handed over Hetauda textile factory to his majesty's government amidst a function held in Katmandu. Letters to this effect were signed by the acting director general, Mr Jivanlal Satyal of the department of industries, and the economic counsellor, Mr Liu Hsi-hui, of the Chinese embassy, on behalf of his majesty's government and the Government of the People's Republic of China. Later, the two sides exchanged letters to this effect.

According to the executive chairman of the Hetauda Textiles Factory Ltd, the products of the industry set up with Chinese assistance at a cost of 180 million rupees will reach the market in 3 months. The factory has already completed trial production. Nearly 550 workers are currently employed by the factory, which will engage 1,400 workers when it enters normal three-shift production in about a year.

SRI LANKA

FOREIGN M.NISTER GIVES MESSAGE ON NONALINED PROGRESS

BK311614Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0959 GMT 31 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, Dec 31 (AFP)--Sri Lanka said today that as chairman of the non-aligned movement it looks back at 1978 with satisfaction and it is convinced that 1979 will be even a better year for the movement.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed in a New Year message to the Co-ordinating Bureau of non-aligned countries in New York said: "As 1979 begins we as chairman of the non-aligned movement look back at 1978 with satisfaction".

He said 1978 was a year full of challenge and the non-aligned movement was confronted with many new problems. "Some of the challenges struck at the roots of the movement," he said, "but it has emerged stronger and more united".

Mr Hameed said Sri Lanka is confident that the sixth summit of non-aligned countries to be held in Cuba in September 1979 will be a success.

"I am happy and proud that the non-aligned movement is today following the correct course and I am impressed by the alertness of the membership to safeguard the movement," Mr Hameed said.

He said the non-aligned movement, which has 86 full members, comprises the largest group of countries outside the United Nations, and representing two-thirds of the world's population, it is the only official spokesman of the under-privileged nations.

Mr Hameed said that the non-aligned will begin the new year with an extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau in Mozambique devoted to problems of southern Africa and at that meeting the front-line states are expected to have practical proposals to quicken the liberation of Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Saying he was convinced that 1979 will be even a better year for the non-aligned community, Mr Hameed declared they looked forward to the inauguration of a more equitable economic system internationally and to greater understanding and less tension in the world political situation in the new year.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS 4-DAY VISIT

BK311123Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The foreign minister of Somalia, Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, has arrived in Sri Lanka on a good-will mission. He was met on arrival at Katunayaka International Airport by the Sri Lanka foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, yesterday.

Concludes Visit, Departs

BK021513Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 2 Jan 79 BK

[Text] Colombo, Jan 2 (AFP)--Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed today told his Somalian counterpart, Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, that Sri Lanka, as chairman of the non-aligned movement, was greatly disturbed by recent developments within the nonaligned movement, a press release said.

Official sources said Mr Hameed referred in particular to the conflict between Vietnam and Cambodia and also to the dispute between Somalia and Ethiopia.

At official talks between the two foreign ministers, Mr Hameed said it was unfortunate that some members within the movement should be in armed conflict, according to the press release issued by the Foreign Ministry at the end of a 4-day visit to Sri Lanka by Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre.

Mr Hameed, however, observed that in spite of this unfortunate development, the movement still stood intact and that up to today no member state had resigned though some of the members have been critical about certain developments within the movement, it said.

The release said Mr Hameed regretted that the committee of eight "wise men" appointed by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1983 [as received] to seek a solution to the problem in the Horn of Africa had still failed to come out with a solution.

He stressed that the OAU had a direct responsibility to guide the destiny of peoples in their continent and that it would be unfair for the present political leadership of Africa to pass this crisis unresolved on to the next generation.

Mr Hameed said that he had been speaking to Ethiopia and Somalia on a number of occasions and Sri Lanka would continue to do so. Sri Lanka wants to ensure that the present conflict would not draw the African Continent into a general conflagration, he said.

The Somalian foreign minister told Mr Hameed that Somalia hopes for a peaceful solution to the current crisis in the Horn of Africa.

Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre said Somalia had great confidence in Sri Lanka's chairmanship of the nonaligned movement and would appreciate Sri Lanka's contribution to the solution of this problem.

The press release said Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre told Sri Lanka's foreign minister that Somalia is keen that the nonaligned movement should not be used by any major powers and that it was their contention that there should be no foreign troops on the soil of any independent country.

Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre stressed that the solution to the problem in the Ogaden and Eritrea could be best achieved by giving the people in the two regions the right of self-determination and that could be the final verdict.

Mr Hameed said it was difficult in practice to apply the condition that foreign troops should not be on the soil of any nonaligned country as long as the UN Charter provides for a member state to invite friendly countries to assist her if she was of the view that her sovereignty and integrity are at stake.

Mr Hameed said the solution lies only in the nonaligned community taking a collective decision not to invoke this charter provision when bilateral disputes within the membership surfaced.

The Somalian foreign minister drew a distinction between an act of aggression and a liberation struggle and said that the application of the UN Charter provision should be justifiable under the former.

The two delegations also had discussions on bilateral economic cooperation. A trade delegation from Somalia will visit Sri Lanka.

They also discussed the nonaligned summit in Cuba next September, the overall situation in the African Continent, the nonaligned movement and other international issues.

Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre and his delegation left here today for Kuala Lumpur to continue his tour of Southeast Asia.